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MACLEAN'S

CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE | www.macleans.ca

MARCH 8 2004

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT JESUS

MEL GIBSON'S CONTROVERSIAL
MOVIE RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT
WHO CHRIST REALLY WAS

BY BRIAN BETHUNE

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CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

Cover Story

WHO WAS JESUS?

Mel Gibson's controversial film raises questions about who Christ was and how he died.

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JESUS CHRIST, REVISITED

The biggest challenge in any debate of religion is to avoid finger-wagging

I STILL HAVE the Bible that I received to these many years ago for my confirmation. The New Testament section features images of a serene, bearded Jesus Christ—which is how we were taught to think of Him by the serene, bearded ministers who converse our doubts. Perhaps the passing of years makes for selective memories, but I don't recall ever hearing then that our religion was better than others, or that our beliefs gave us a right to lecture

others on their beliefs. And I don't think it is just selective memory, because, happily, that serene, white-powdered minister in his tall hat is at a small church where we had our son baptised two summers ago. He is a gentle soul in every way.

Religion is best accompanied by the kind of self-confidence that allows for self-doubt. Our minister understood that—which puts him on a higher plane than most. Too often, religion—whether you're for or against it—forces us into a finger wag. We see that in the controversy surrounding Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* (page 26)—a movie that has become a prism through which people criticise their own view of religion and the world around them. So it's not surprising that it's been greeted with sharply different interpretations as to its content. Some Jews find it anti-Semitic, while others disagree, some Christians are offended by its violence and brutality, others praise its attempt at accuracy. Evangelical Christians see the powerful emotions it engenders as a first step to converting non-believers.

In the eternal argument over whether religion is a disease or a cure, you can make the case both ways these days. Since 9/11, the gulf between the largely Muslim Middle East and the Western world has never seemed wider or more dangerous. It's tempting to minimize the differences between cultures, but it can be foolish and dangerous to do so. In France, Stephanie Casca writes (page 37), the hottest topic of conversation at the government decision to ban Muslim headscarves from wearing headscarves. Across the globe, writes Barbara Arriaga (page 37), there is evidence of a resurgence of overt anti-Semitism. But we also see instances in which religious leaders urge followers to be more respectful in their view of other beliefs—

as with Christian leaders denouncing any attempts to use Gibson's movie to incite anti-Semitism. As anyone with a passing knowledge of history knows, such tolerance decidedly isn't how the case ever made it to the late 2,000 years or so. Respect for other beliefs is a crucial step. The quest for perfection—spiritual or other—is uplifting, the trouble arises when we believe we've achieved that goal.

MACLEAN'S in partnership with the Dominion Institute, is presenting the Fifth Annual LaFontaine-Baldwin Symposium. This year's events will be held in Toronto, highlighting esteemed Australian author David Malouf's lecture at the University of Toronto's Casa Loma Hall on Friday, March 12, followed by a panel discussion



David Malouf is coming to talk on— and about—Canada

Revering his Excellency John Ralston Saul, author *Island Man*, *The Solent* publisher Alain Dubois, and our Paul Wills. We're featuring related pieces in upcoming issues, including an essay by Saul, and a condensed version of Malouf's speech. For more information, see www.macleans.ca

Anthony Wilson-Smith

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"Why don't we just assume that all politicians are liars, crooks and swindlers? That way when we meet one who isn't it will come as a pleasant surprise." —James Armstrong, Victoria

Performance review

Working in the private sector, I've always believed that if an error has taken place, you are bound to acknowledge it and deal with it in the best way possible ("Scandalous" Cover, Feb. 23). It appears that this approach is not well known in Ottawa. Witness how Paul Martin is being castigated for his handling of the sponsorship fiasco. After the auditor general's scathing report, Martin chose to accept the criticism, acknowledge it had validity and undertake the necessary measures to correct and prevent recurrence. This is in stark contrast to the usual Liberal approach of interview, deny, ignore and reject. As his reward, Martin is being soundly lambasted in opinion polls, in the media, and from within his own party. For my part, I applaud the Prime Minister, and he has earned a great deal more of my trust and respect.

Steve Wintach, Sudbury, Ont.

Will Mr. Martin, you have left me straddling the fence with your "I didn't know a thing about it" response. Either you are one of the biggest lies in Canadian history or the stupidest finance minister politics has ever seen. Whatever the case, you're not getting my vote.

Rene L. Smith, Calgary

To any individual, \$250 million is a lot of money. But the amount spent on these controversial sponsorships is about one-seventh of one per cent of the federal government's 2002/2003 expenditures. Put in other way, to someone earning \$50,000 a year, that's the equivalent of \$71.43. Would we expect such a wage earner to know the details of every \$71 expenditure, especially those made by other family members? (Too many Canadians have under-views of what knowledge Martin should have had while he was finance minister. Equally unfair, however, we seem to respond in a tested Canadian law for politicians: innocent until proven guilty.)

Wayne Reed, North Brimley, Ont.

With all the temptation and pressure that comes in the corridors of our legislatures and



the marketplace, it is uncommon to find people who do not buckle under the pressure. During the mid-nineties, I interviewed numerous politicians, including party leaders and Paul Martin, while hosting a cable TV show. I am not sure that any leader we have in Canada, including Martin, has the strength of character to tackle the self-serving culture that exists within our political systems.

Al Dyck, Downsview, Ont.

I am stunned at the lack of outrage. Why aren't Canadians burning effigies of Jean Chretien and his merry men? Place the blame where it belongs.

Linda Falconer, Toronto

With sympathy | Many readers tell us they feel for the less fortunate

Letter writers tend to be angry, but others are touched by what they read. Take two recent issues by frequent contributor and child advocate Dr. Samantha Hart on the horrors of living in the Congo. "I wish child soldiers could have had the same ability to grow up as I do," wrote Eric Morfitt at Columbia, Miss. "I hope believed in justice and not war."

Say yes to spam

I don't mind spam. It's the price we pay in order to have access to the incredible resources available on the Internet. You've got spam? Send Report, Feb. 23. I went through literally hundreds of spam messages each day. It takes about five minutes to blow out what I don't want. I consider them to be the same useless flyers that come with the newspaper—very occasionally I find something that I'm actually interested in. Somebody has to pay the bills, and if this is the price we pay, it's a small one. Consider the alternative.

Shawn Rowland, New York City

People complain furiously much. I get a much space to most people, but I deal with it. It is so simple to recognize spam and delete unwanted messages that people have to excuse for being so impatient.

Chris Haydock, Victoria

I've just read your negative view on spam e-mails. I'm 14 and I completely agree. Every time I log on, I always get a big fat block of spam waiting for me.

Scott Patrick Craig, Ontario, Ont.

Low-carb nation

All these diet experts should shelve the rhetoric over who's right and who's wrong and point out that it makes sense to lose weight, and that merely losing weight by doing shouldn't be the Holy Grail for everyone. What good is losing 20 pounds if you still can't climb stairs without wheezing and gasping?

Dave Van Wert, Oakville, Ont.

If you want to lose weight, eat less. It takes willpower, motivation and, fundamentally, a lifestyle change. Anything else you hear about diets is just yammering from marketing and vested interests.

Andrew Polak, Ajax, Ont.

The worst thing about the Atkins diet is ignoring the misconceptions surrounding it ("The lowdown on the low carb diet war," Essay, Feb. 23). It's not about eating your self full of bacon and watching the pounds fall off. It's about eating a steak and green salad for dinner, without the scalloped potatoes. I have watched my father lose 30-plus pounds in three months while on the Atkins diet. He now has lower cholesterol and weight levels than he had in the 15 years

On time for the next shift in toy land. Toys "R" Us might just have the largest toy inventory challenge in the world. A challenge they meet every day together with their technology partner HP. To do this, HP software and high-performance servers see to it that every toy in every store is constantly tracked and managed. So if one hundred Geoffrey Giraffes leave the store, one hundred new Geoffrey Giraffes arrive back on the job, pretty-spl! www.hp.ca/plus_toysus

toys "r" us



everything is possible



spoke on low-fat diets. People are so afraid to discount anything, supposed dietitians tell us, or to consider that Carolyn's Food Guide to Healthy Eating may not be the right diet for everybody. Remember the uproar when it was suggested that the world may be round?

Linda Henderson, Prince George, B.C.

Return to sender

In response to a letter from Ian McGregor of Orleans, Ont. ("While the game," Feb. 23) yes, we *Canadians* do have it pretty good. As McGregor notes, we don't have terrorism flying planes into buildings as Boy Scouts. But perhaps that is because we don't stick our nose where it doesn't belong. I did not feel safe last night of Sept. 11, nor did I feel safe when George W. Bush declared that every American after with the U.S. or against it. Unchecked power is trouble. Larne-Rae Winkler, Saskatoon

In response to the letters criticizing your Feb. 9 note "Hope police, eh," George W. Bush defenders are right that the President haughtily and does what he thinks is right, regardless. One problem, though: Guilt and resolve, plus incompetence, equals one disastrous president.

David Gaudet, Guelph, Ont.

I don't get it. Marylister suggests that only our U.S. president we would be helpful. Yes, protesting as from what? Last time I checked the only threat Canada ever really faced was in the Second World War—and that was only if Hitler had won and can rid itself of the Atlantic. One American writer, Jan Herbert, says the powers of the U.S., and then says the world stand up and did nothing after the terrorist attacks. Well, what if all those plane land on Sept. 11? Dieter Handman of Guelph, Ont., wrote, "Don't you think Americans would have expressed a similar opinion about our former prime minister, Jean Chretien?" I would be surprised if we could find 18 per cent of Americans who had heard of him. And how American? What does that mean? Are we anti-Canadian because we criticize our government? Just because we are neighbours does not mean we have to show love for their leadership. I have neighbours, but I don't love them.

Dever Clark, Port Nelson, B.C.



Killing is preferred to leading a normal life

Cadet afloat

I find it troubling that a fourth-year Royal Military College cadet, commenting in the West Point BMC blog today, is quoted as saying, "There is a difference between West Point cadets and us... Our roles are different. We're the peacekeepers." Obviously, this young cadet has been the victim of the government brainwashing that Canada is a peacekeeping nation ("Replicating a border war," Spence, Feb. 23). Will someone remind this cadet and his peers that it is a combat capable force that do peacekeeping. He should also recognize the mission he may find himself involved in will be peace enforcement—often much more dangerous than war. In the meantime, the policy course or whatever at RMC should be examined with a view to giving our young cadets an introduction to real-world politics and military affairs.

Col. R. L. Fowlow (retired), Calgary

Down with the king

I am curious as to whether Brian Toppman actually talked to any Albertans before writing "King Ralph's long reign" (Alberta, Feb. 16). As a disgruntled Albertan, my own experience has been that one doesn't have to poll many Albertans to find a significant number who are fed up with Klein's arrogance, deeply disingenuous but common man image. And as for his pouring money into education and health care programs previ-

ously slashed, some accounts picture would be lacking enough cash to keep the pot-pot renovated but still critically ill.

Debbie Boulton, Calgary

Viewer discretion

It was shocking to read that the two boys in "Arms and the child" ("War, Feb. 9) would go back into the army if they had the chance, even with all the horrible scenes they saw and still use as nightmares flash through their minds. In Canada, we try to protect children from violent videogames and movies with ratings system. In Congo, young children are carrying out things we believe are too violent to even be seen by them—they were the characters in our graphic video games, only it was no game and they are still dealing with the trauma. If Congo is to experience peace, something needs to be done to help the kids deal with the emotional scarring of being a Mayi Mayi militia soldier.

Clifford Owen, Courtenay, B.C.

Everybody loves Rick

Your article about Rick Mercer is exactly what I was looking for! Rick's article ("Come, Feb. 16). Up until two months ago, I questioned whether anyone watched TV programs on CBC other than the news. One evening, I flipped through channels and discovered Mercer's Monday Report. The result? I now faithfully tune one and a half hours of CBC every Monday, including *The Hour Has 22 Minutes* and *Real Canadian Air Force*.

Jason Chalmers, Winnipeg

I was definitely the most nervous from any of the Maritime nodes. I was especially the way you portrayed Rick as what he is—a very gifted comedian.

Good Maclellan, White, Ont.

Beauty of the beasts

What a wonderful act of kindness these people have performed in donating land for the reintroduction of beaver to southwestern Saskatchewan ("Beav'ly reborn," Nature, Feb. 16). Amid all the ugly stories of war and politics, this beautiful piece captures. I am so proud of these people and hope their act of kindness captures more than itself to follow with other unselfish gifts to those "others" we share our Earth with. Good on you! Sheila Turner, Selkirk-Lake, Alta.

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everything is possible



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Writing the reader poll question that appears on the *Maclean's* Web site each Sunday at 5 p.m. is a task that's part art, part science and part news sense, says On-Line Editor Derek Cheezel. Cheezel leads the team responsible for the weekly poll and the other interactive features and editorial content on the Web site.

"Political questions incite the most instant reactions, by far, but we try to cover a range of timely topics we think will both draw people's attention and engage discussion," says Chirri.

Speak up on the
Question of the Week
at Macleans.ca

The poll is one of the most popular features on the site and attracts regular respondents again and again. "The comments we get are thoughtful, insightful and often quite entertaining," he adds.

The site offers regular features and extras you won't find in the printed magazine, including:

- Chertoff's own *MacWatch* column, drawing on his experience as a *Maclean's* technology reporter and on-line editor.
- The *Weblog of Back Page* Columnist Paul Wells, documenting his off-the-cuff musings on everything from politics to jazz.
- Senior Writer Anne Buchanan's "Brian's Bar" book column in the *Culture* section, highlighting what's hot in the literary world.
- A collection of exclusive on-line photo galleries, featuring the work of *Maclean's* photographers on subjects from the Toronto Film Festival to our military in training. Watch for more web specials to come. For instance, the Personal Finance section, launched this tax season (on-line for a limited time at: www.moneynews.ca/taxstories/Source), combines efforts with sister Web sites MoneySense.ca and CanadianBusiness.com to include articles, planning tools and interactive calculators to help you better manage your money.

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Fun Sun



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Helping our forests to thrive.

The mountain pine beetle is a devastating forest pest that is killing millions of trees throughout British Columbia. As its range spreads east, more of Canada's boreal forest is threatened. Over the past several years, Pacific Canada woodlands have noticed a significant increase in the beetle's population in Banff National Park. Wildlife June Park and forest technician Nick Humphreys have been monitoring this increase. With other woodlands and technicians, they've researched beetle mortality and defoliation trends, gathering data essential to the development of effective management strategies. This year, thanks in part to this work, beetle populations have decreased significantly in Banff National Park. June and Nick are two of the more than 150 new members of PSNC who work here to ensure Canada's forests thrive. They're the people behind the service.

THE PEOPLE BEHIND
THE SERVICE.



UPFRONT



Business | A lord laid low in a Delaware court

Conrad Black's grip on one of the world's greatest media empires was severely weakened last week by a Delaware court judge who described the Canadian born, now British based, as an unscrupulously Italy and his actions as "cunning and calculated." Judge Leo Srinie ruled that Black had "personally" breached his duties to Hollinger International Inc., the publishing company he created, and its shareholders.

The case pitted media baron Black against his former fellow board members.

Black's deal and to approve a poison pill had adopted as further defense against a hostile takeover. Judge Stone also was to rule on a last-minute change Black slipped into the company's bylaws, giving him veto power over the board's potential plans to sell the company's price ranges per assets.

This isn't quite the end. Other legal battles include a case that aims to free Black

“Judge Leo Stine ruled that Black had been untrustworthy and his actions ‘cunning and calculated.’”

Hollinger Inc. and other executives to repay US\$200 million to Hollinger International. Also, Black is suing International board members, claiming he'd been made a "scapegoat" who'd been "sacrificed miserably in the media." He faces investigations by the Ontario Securities Commission and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

lowest payment of 1,547.4 million—more a decade ago, so there.

ELTHERN, MICHIGAN

ScoreCard

A. J.R. Kowling
Vice-Poetry editor and
former welfare recipient
writes *Father-in-law's*
and's annual list of
billions. Deserves
it, too, after getting
millions of kids to read
well that a reader.

▼ **Low-carb bread**
George Weston Ltd. introduces bread for the Atkins diet (now) Cravback a half-bake crust. \$3.99 a loaf, compared to \$1.19 for wheat (less carbs, more dough)

W Ralph Walder
Spliced off enough
Democratic voters to
SABOTAGE to give George W.
Bush the White House
while untold millions
happened. Now, run-
ning tight— to get
Bush out of the White
House, and so the
World hurt the Dems.
Today the suspended
consumer advocate
whom Bush fired!

▼ **Osberio Turkes**
Revelations that some of the party's top leaders are getting \$500 million as Fiat Hydro-Tec partners during the interim. Even now, his waters thinking no wonder electricity rates are up.

▲ JAMES JONKLE
Admiral
 The sheer stupidity
 near 74-year-old chair-
 man of gun-maker
 Smith & Wesson came
 out to have been an
 armed soldier in his
 student days who's
 forbidden from owning
 a firearm. Media
 steps down but will
 continue as a director.
 Can't beat experience.

▲ Lads
Whispering that they're standing firm en route to Edinburgh after Troon reaffirms its goal in the 2014-15 Six Nations bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland. Joyful Americans begin lining up at ticket counters.

Quote of the week | "Black breached his fiduciary and contractual duties persistently and seriously. His conduct threatens grave injury to [Hollinger] International."

Mary Janigan | ON THE ISSUES



A LOOMING BORDER CRISIS

Valuable trade and personal freedoms are threatened by U.S. security proposals

UNLESS the Americans alter their drastic plans, we are slipping helplessly toward an enormous border crisis. In the name of security, U.S. programs with harmless-sounding names like VIST and CAPPS II are slated to expand this year with dire implications for trade. In private, U.S. officials vow to keep traffic moving. But Canadian insiders can scarcely curb their concerns. "What you have is an army of people at the U.S. border with one instruction: secure the border," says a nervous Ottawa insider. "It is very, very hard to measure that. The terrible thing is that the only time to try is between now and the next terrorist attack."

The situation is worrisome still in its infancy. CAPPS II would gather personal information from airlines about potential passengers such as their date of birth. It would seal that information to commercial data-gatherers who would use that degree of confidence in the passenger's personal identity (They have records of identity theft.) If that were shown unacceptable risk, CAPPS II would check our government databases, and adding classified intelligence. High-risk passengers would be denied boarding passes.

It is easy to see where this is heading. U.S. airlines have refused to provide such data, citing privacy concerns. The European Union

may allow data to be used for sorting—but not yet for the program itself. While the U.S. has had pre-screening talks with Canada, nothing will be decided until more details are available. That will take time: the system's immense privacy and technical challenges, and in a case that turns U.S. General Accounting Office report, will delay U.S.

implementation beyond late summer. Perhaps indefinitely.

VIST means worse trouble. By Dec. 31, all U.S.-bound travelers from visa-free countries will be fingerprinted and photographed at the 30 busiest land crossings. By the same time next year, the system is slated to include all land crossings. On Feb. 4, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce begged U.S. authorities to delay its expansion and it has been their ongoing threat—and its impact on U.S. air ports and 14 seaports traded. (It took effect in air and sea entry points in early January.)

The potential for crossing delays is infinite. The chamber wants that loose plate soon, not malfunction in temperate extremes what about other equipment? Most crossings lack space for more screening—and staffing levels are inadequate. When, if the U.S. goes ahead with plans for a VIST can expand, "traffic backups at many locations would flow into urban areas" such as Denver.

This would be a nightmare. Every 20 seconds a truck crosses the Canada-U.S. border, every minute, U.S. military in miles number through. "We'd be much to one U.S. firm, Home Depot, as we do to France." "It is a very real concern," says Peter Lyons, CEO of Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters. "Governments must acknowledge it, clarify how it would work, make sure it is not unduly intrusive and prevent delays."

Enter and then done. Both nations must raise staffing levels—and operations lines for traffic. The FAST program, which allows drivers with biometric security clearances carrying pre-approved loads to waive through, usually without inspection, should be expanded. FAST card drivers, many of whom will carry passports from nations such as Pakistan, should be exempted from VIST. All of that, however, will take time. In the interval, the U.S. should resort to its old, not errors, at its borders.

Mary Janigan is a political and policy writer. maryjanigan@madison-jagers.com

FaceTime

Crying Wolf

In a story she wrote for New York magazine, Andrew Rosen's Wolf's crossed her former Yale classmate's path. Rosen, a former chief of state, is now a senior advisor to the White House. Rosen, a former chief of state, is now a senior advisor to the White House. Rosen, a former chief of state, is now a senior advisor to the White House.



Time the Head

People have long looked at the head of New York's largest city. Rosen's Wolf's crossed her former Yale classmate's path. Rosen, a former chief of state, is now a senior advisor to the White House. Rosen, a former chief of state, is now a senior advisor to the White House.



Wrapping up

The events of the past few days have been a close call for the judge. Rosen's Wolf's crossed her former Yale classmate's path. Rosen, a former chief of state, is now a senior advisor to the White House. Rosen, a former chief of state, is now a senior advisor to the White House.



Lost at sea

Stephen Harper's media order demands. The of the recently leaked in congressional letter on the occasion of Republic Day. Rosen's Wolf's crossed her former Yale classmate's path. Rosen, a former chief of state, is now a senior advisor to the White House.



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ONTARIO LIBERALS Reluctant Premier Dalton McGuinty decided to allow Greg Sorbara to continue to finance minister. Sorbara was previously director of Royal Group Technologies Ltd., a firm whose financial dealings are currently under investigation.

BY GREGG OLSON

FED-PROV RELATIONS At the inaugural meeting of the Council of the Federation, which more formally replaces what used to be an annual premiers' conference, participants warned that, without more federal funding and reforms, Canada's health care system might not survive the decade. Alberta's Ralph Klein said that his province might even opt out of the system.

TORTURE Another Canadian citizen has come forward with allegations that he was tortured in Syria. Maynard Nardella, of Iraqi origin, was detained by Syrian and Iranian forces in December after a visit to relatives in Iraq. He was held for a month, then released on Jan. 13. Nardella, who made his first public statement last week, wants to know if the Canadian Security Intelligence Service had a role in his arrest.

SHOCKS Older Canadians are working longer, according to Statistics Canada. In 2001, an estimated 369,000 people aged 65 and older were in the workforce, a 19.6 per cent increase over 1996.



MISSILES Sense 30 Liberals supported a Bill C-40 motion stipulating that Canada not take part in negotiations relating to the U.S. *missile defense program*. The vote came in the wake of reports of Canada U.S. talks about stationing rocket launchers and radar stations on Canadian soil, in lieu of major Canadian cash contributions to the program. The motion was defeated 155 to 71.

HEALTH According to the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), the

number of overweight and obese children in Canada is doubling. About 36 per cent of Canada's 2 to 11 are currently overweight, with 10 per cent of those obese. Experts say that represents a leveling off, but the numbers are still high: the percentage of overweight children today is more than three times what it was in 1981.

The rich really are different, at least as far as health and longevity go. According to the CIHI, Canada's top 20 per cent of income earners live, on average, five years longer than the lowest 20 per cent.

GAYS CONTINUED to be mentioned in San Francisco, where Mayor Dianne Feinstein has allowed California's Family Code that allowed such unions. But the battle is now just beginning. According to the conservative Irish St. Ignace, George W. Bush forced the Senate, which is called as Congress to pass an amendment banning gay marriage. In doing so, the President tested the situation in California and, indirectly, a recent decision allowed gay marriage by the Supreme Court. I cover in this column a list of the laws of the state of California. The decision is: how many, who had work was under these provisions, responded by creating a list of "gay" to do it. "gay" and of attempting to deny the focus away from his foreign and domestic policies.



A guide to the on-demand world Meeting customers' needs

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TOURIST LIFE IN KABUL

Memories of Afghanistan: so where do all those 1851 U.S. dollars come from?

A FEW notebook entries after an assignment in Afghanistan—among the newspapermen so fascinated by that some couldn't stop talking about it: What are those TV people that they find so interesting? They have a "TV section" and employ people to be "TV critics"—no line there. Perhaps TV should hire newspaper "critics" to cover all the intrigue, backstabbing and conspiracy-riddled conflict issues that dominate the newspaper world these days. Interesting to us, but probably boring to most Canadians. Anyway, back to Afghanistan.

Given what's happened to newspapermen, it should be no surprise that Hamid Karzai is surrounded by very appreciative layers of protection. The previous leader, the Taliban's Mullah Omar, is still on the run; the Soviet puppet Najibullah was removed, then executed by the Taliban before being shot, and the Northern Alliance leader, Gen. Ahmed Massoud, was assassinated by al-Qaeda operatives disguised as journalists. (Getting in to see Karzai makes White House security look tame, with three checkpoints leading to the Presidential Palace. Security has heavily armed Afghan and U.S. South Korean guards who pat positions—everywhere, including the palace, near international aid, and, during our interview, new tough-looking guys off camera with big gun-bulging shoulder holsters. Needless to say, I called Karzai "Mr. President" a lot.

“Military antiquies and carpets are again hot sellers, although it may be while to have doubts about the ‘antique’ description.”

CAMP RAJIV: The Canadian base in Kabul is carrying out outside activities, and no wonder it's increasingly well-organized for war is, after all, a test day. It has great local facilities, mess halls, exercise grounds, theatres,

Internet café—all under canvas. The soldier-wise about it, and now other countries are looking at the camp with, perhaps, bigger eyes. With the bulk of Canadian troops set to leave this summer, the optics are to either ship it home, leave it as is or sell it. With that in mind, the British and Americans, among others, are chalking things up by moving some of their people in for a while to kick the tires.

REPORT: The fighting in Afghanistan, there was no doubt. Kabul's Chakrabarti Street was the way, and it's making a comeback with visiting troops and aid workers. Afghan military antiquies and carpets are again hot sellers, although it may be wise to question the "antique" description. When you see idled 1851 U.S. silver dollars with worn edges in the same place in every store, you begin to wonder. After the coup, when police drove through Kabul, you saw recently worn rug lying across the street, cars, trucks and bicycles full on them to produce a more apt, more reliable product. Yes, I bought one.

FINALITY: The Kabul airport, one of the great wonders of the arid world. Flight times change often, some aircraft leave an hour early with no warning. Check-in is a test of patience. In order to pay the "airline representative fee" (in cash, of course) is the quickest way through the maze of guards, bag-checkers and bureaucrats. Then there's the baggage system. Count on an hour at most for bags to come off your plane, unless you're in the same passenger on an outfit who crowded through the curtain of rubber strips that cover the conveyor belt's entry point into the terminal, walked onto the tarmac and to the plane and loaded their own bags out. Now that's liberation—let them know they do that with the Taliban. ☐

Editor: Margaret Mansbridge, Chief Correspondent of CBC Television News and Anchor of the Saturday, 10 p.m. news. (Mansbridge@cbc.ca)

Passages

NAMED: Candidate Stephen Jaroslawsky, 78, of the management firm Jaroslawsky Financial, and Guy Laliberté, 44, founder of the Cirque du Soleil, have both been added to Forbes magazine's billionaire list—with an estimated net worth of US\$1.1 billion each.

STEPPED DOWN: It was a bad week to be an NHL head coach. The New York Rangers' Glen Sather removed himself from behind the bench after the struggling franchise, father, 64, will resign as the Rangers' president and general manager. And the Phoenix Coyotes' Bob Francis and St. Louis Blues' Ted Quesnelle were both fired for their teams' poor performances.



SOUNDING: Andrew Williams, a Toronto native who co-ordinated SARS during the second phase of last year's deadly outbreak, launched a lawsuit for \$500 million against the city of Toronto and the Ontario and federal governments. Williams claims that the governments were more concerned with tourism than with protecting public health.

NEWS SERVICE: Prime Minister Stephen Harper, in asking a British court for permission to launch an anti-terrorist operation of the Saudi government, Harper said he was disappointed to find that the Saudi government was not as strong as he had hoped. He said he was disappointed to find that the Saudi government was not as strong as he had hoped.

NAMED: Former Montreal Expos Andre Dawson, 41, will be inducted into the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame in June. Dawson, who played for the Expos from 1982 to 1990, was named to the Hall of Fame in 1991. Dawson, who played for the Expos from 1982 to 1990, was named to the Hall of Fame in 1991.

MARRIED: New York's Ross O'Donnell, 41, and his partner of six years, Kalki Kuehner, 36, were married at San Francisco City Hall and surrounded by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, who sang Chippel's Love. The couple say they met in a show of defiance against President Bush's call for a constitutional ban on same-sex marriages.



Haiti | A nation spinning out of control

With beatings and kidnappings rampant across Port-au-Prince, residents today rebelled against the burning capital, and lawmakers fleeing the chaos, Haiti confirmed a reputation last week as an unrepentant disaster zone. In an effort to ease the mounting crisis, Washington tried to brokers last-ditch deal this would have weakened President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's power and provided for an opposition government in the government, while leaving Aristide in place until election in 2006. But Aristide's opposition refused, saying they would accept nothing less than the president's resignation.

It has been a dramatic descent for Aristide, once viewed as the people's savior after the end of the brutal Duvalier regime. First elected in 1990, the former priest now stands accused of widespread corruption and is opposed not only by the Democratic Aristide, whose alliance of political groups, but also by armed rebels not affiliated with the political opposition. Having taken then-acting countrywide even before the power play in Haiti, they were also in on Port-au-Prince by week's end. Aristide, who refused to step down, appeared to the outside world for help. "I should those who have come to Port-au-Prince, you may have thousands who may

be killed," he said. "We need the presence of the international community."

But with some 30,000 foreigners in Haiti, other countries seemed more concerned about the safety of their own people. France, the former colonial ruler, blamed Aristide for the crisis and held talks with opposition leaders—while urging its citizens to leave the country. The United States deployed Marines to protect its embassy and personnel. Canada sent a small military contingent to plan the evacuation of up to 1,800 Canadians and guard the embassy. But Defense Minister David Pratt rejected the idea of sending more troops, in part because previous foreign intervention in Haiti accomplished little.

As the situation intensified, the neighboring Dominican Republic called upon troops to reinforce its 300-km border with Haiti. The U.S. began uncrashing thousands of refugees before they reached Florida. Per roadblocks of the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation trying to escape the instability of their homeland, there was no way out. CYNTHIA BRINKLEY



Rebel troops continued to advance, while Aristide asked for international assistance.

REFORM AMID THE SCANDAL

The new political finance law should have a profound effect, writes JOHN GEDDES



AUDITOR GENERAL Sheila Fraser, who's known at night for her wry words as late as the midnight number, characterized what she exposed as her report on the federal open spending program as "shocking." At first, that sounded about right. As public opinion sank deepened, though, what seemed to be harshening Conservative government, massive cost overruns at the past regime, integral excesses in the private commissioner's office, who could honestly claim to be fallacious? It was the all-too-familiar tale to the latest out-

rage that made it so outrageous. Just there is a way to describe the current state of this around Parliament Hill that still stands a chance of being ground with assurance: the dawn of a new era of dark federal politics.

That sunny proposition is not based on credible acceptance of Paul Martin's 171 per cent to the bottom of this rhetoric on the latest scandal. In response to the offer might well turn out to be meaningful, but the few measures his promised sound little chance of

being as historic as the reforms he inherited. Jean Chretien passed a sweeping political finance law to one of his government's final moments in office. He was driven to it by a combination of factors: a dark shadow over his legacy. The impact of the new law, which took effect on Jan. 1, hasn't gone to the attention it deserves. It bans donations to parties and their leadership candidates from corporations and unions, limiting them to giving a maximum of just \$1,000 to local

candidates. Individuals are allowed to give up to \$5,000 a year to a party, its riding association, and candidates.

Decisions of political backrooms have rarely had to cope with bigger change, aside from bylaws banning indoor smoking. No more courting company and labour bosses, selling them open tables at fundraising dinners. Parties now need to concentrate on getting wide support from citizens committed enough to contribute from their own pockets. Irving Gertin, the former Vancouverer who heads the Conservative Party of Canada Fund, was a vocal opponent of the new restrictions. But even he now describes the change in basically positive terms: "We're going to see individuals far more involved than they were in the past."

And we're going to see future political scandals that no longer feature what has often been the most disturbing destination of politicians'—in left to dubious donations. Consider this aspect of the controversial sponsorship program. Groupthink Marketing, one of the Montreal advertising agencies that collected millions in questionable federal fees and commissions, donated more than \$300,000 to the Liberal Party of Canada from 1997 to 2001, the period when Fraser found the program was most egregiously out of control. Other firms and individuals implicated in her report also gave generously to the governing party. Inevitably, this raises the question of whether one way of the murky federal marketing world of the sponsorship scheme was to generate lookbooks.

Stray by such a suggestion, the Liberal party's Quebec wing a herringbone around to find out how much it stood in from the implicated companies and executives. But there's where the subject edges toward

Martin has started to address issues of political ethics when his predecessor left off

the abroad. Defense Trustee, the accounting giant that has been chosen by the party to conduct the sensitive audit, is itself a big Liberal donor—prompting Conservatives to charge that the firm can't be trusted with the job.

That's the way it goes when companies are allowed to pour money into politics. Their donations tend to cast suspicion over every aspect of their relationship with politicians. Many party functions protest, no doubt with much justification, that most donations come with strings attached. "I remember once encountered a corporate donor who expected the highest favour from, or access to, government in exchange for supporting the cooperative political system," Stanley Harris, a former chief of staff to prime minister Brian Mulroney and before that a top federal bureaucrat, said in a recent letter to *Maclean's*. On the other hand, the Public Policy Forum, an Ottawa research group, surveyed 30 corporations last year on why they made political contributions, and 59 admitted they expected to improve their relations with government. It is too cynical to suppose they hoped for a lot of extra access and the odd bribe favour.

Under the new rules, thankfully, such cynical assumptions need no longer be made. A problematic firm has been out. Still, questions about money and political influence have not entirely been put to rest—and never will be. Gertin worries that some companies might look for other ways to spend money to try to influence election outcomes, perhaps by supporting one-way groups not officially affiliated with political parties. "An open market may be made by this," he said. This depends partly on the outcome of a case now being considered by the Supreme Court of Canada. The conservative National Citizens' Coalition has asked the court to overturn portions of the Canada Elections Act that would cap election advertising and restrict spending by lobby groups at \$150,000 annually and \$3,000 in any one riding. The federal government opposed the Alberta ruling, and the Supreme Court heard arguments last month. It's not clear when a decision will be handed down.

Even if the top court upholds the Alberta ruling, it's hard to imagine corporations



QUESTIONS about money and political influence have not been put entirely to rest—and never will be

and unions going at each to interest groups as they traditionally did to parties. So their financial leverage in electoral politics appears to have been relegated to history. Of course, that doesn't mean an end to government spending scandals, there's no way to outlaw sheer incompetence, or legislators

every malpractice stemmed by personal greed and corruption. But on those fronts, too, the situation in Ottawa looked promising even before the sponsorship affair broke.

One key to improving the spending safeguards designed to discover waste—and worse—before anyone out of hand. It's Martin deserves credit. One of his most obscure policy commitments during his weeks to the Liberal leadership last year was to put a computer in every government department, which he sold as private sector-style financial oversight. The promise didn't exactly get the campaign trail alone. But since the sponsorship affair exposed how spending controls can easily break down, some

Liberals are talking as if "A Compromise in Every Department" has taken on the same fire ring of "A Chicken in Every Pot." Treasury Board President Rog Aloosh, the cabinet minister in charge of modernizing the system, says he'll go further—not just making sure that how Ottawa spends is better understood, but also that much more of the detail is open to outside scrutiny. "The mandate I've come in with is to build systems to ensure transparency and accountability," he says. "That's doing transformation that has to happen."

If the promise of greater openness is turning into critics who see secrecy at the root of the most recent scandal. Anne Prosser, a lead member of the notorious government ethics advisory group Democracy Watch, says a full-scale updating of the Access to Information Act is long overdue. Aloosh is looking into the law with an eye to extending it reach at least as far as Crown corporations—including those, such as Via Rail and Canada Post, that are tangled up in the sponsorship

THE promise of greater openness is tantalizing to critics who see secrecy at the root of the most recent scandal

ship affair. Prosser says how far the government is willing to go on this file is a litmus test of Martin's true commitment to a new ethical standard. "We need to overhaul the access to information rules," he said. "By extending down to Crown corporations is the most modest of the reforms we need."

But before anyone can turn to new initiatives, the final report on the Charbonneau bill to be recommended as an ethics reformer remains to be completed. Martin has reintroduced his predecessor's package of legislation to finally create a federal ethics commissioner independent of the prime minister, and impose an ethics code on MPs and senators. That law, Bill C-4, has been passed by the House, but is now before the Senate, which blocked an earlier version last year. "I don't want to believe it's a done deal this time until the senators move—and worried it could be delayed again, perhaps until after a spring election. "We could be at a watershed moment," he said. "Or the government could find ways of delaying

PUSHING FOR NEW POWERS TO THE PEOPLE

The wave of enthusiasm for provincial governments for changing the way Canadians elect their political representatives may soon wash over Ottawa. Government House Leader Jacques Stasiak, the cabinet minister for Prime Minister Paul Martin, has put in charge of devolution reforms, including behind the scenes to create a new federal body to gather ideas being generated by the provinces and consult broadly with Canadians.



Stasiak points to declaring voter turnout.

Stasiak's not saying exactly where he hopes the process will lead, but the reform being seriously considered in several provinces are fundamental—including proportional representation and preferential ballots. "My ambition would be to create a secretariat of democratic reform in Ottawa," Stasiak told *Maclean's*. "No decision has been made, but my mind is set on establishing some sort of a structure to go to the people and ask for their input."

Momentum for change has been building in recent months. British Columbia has convened a Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform to look for ways to improve its electoral system. Ontario's new Liberal government has launched its own consultation, and Premier Dalton McGuinty has promised a referendum on the options that seem most promising. Quebec's government is considering a revamp of its provincial Assembly so that some representatives would be elected in the traditional way in ridings, and others based on their party's share of the overall popular vote. Stasiak wants the federal government to get ready to play a role in this sometimes radical rethinking of Canadian democracy. "The work that's being done by provinces is absolutely amazing," he said.

until the public's attention is elsewhere."

Prosser sounds alarmed to be disrupted. Still, the combination of radical new political finance rules already in force, the ethics package now before the Senate, and Aloosh's grand plan to revamp financial openness systems throughout the government, is too big to be ignored. Charbonneau felt forced to address ethics at the end of

"If Ottawa can gain from that, I'm quite open to listening."

Being taken seriously on the subject of power in the people is a key part of the Martin government's strategy for clearing away the bad debris of the sponsorship scandal. But Stasiak says the impetus for reform goes deeper: he wants to declare voter turnout, particularly among young voters, as a leading trend. Proportional representation—allowing parties seats based on their share of the vote, not just where they place first—is a given constituency—is one widely discussed way to make more votes matter than in Canada's traditional first-past-the-post system. Another idea is preferential balloting, in which voters would rank their choices rather than just marking the top pick, if no candidate gets a majority of first-place votes, then second choices are taken into consideration. (It's being tried in the Conservative leadership race.) "All ideas are worth listening to," Stasiak said. "And reform is not going to succeed unless we agree that the best have to be coming to Ottawa from the people, and not vice versa."

LO



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JESUS

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT HIM?

"WHAT IS TRUTH?" Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea, famously asked Jesus in the Gospel according to John. But the Evangelist it was a moment of supreme irony: the chief of the powers that be, as the New Testament calls the lands of the earth, was face to face with truth incarnate, and refused to recognize him. The irony is more poignant in the Gospel according to Mel. When Pilate asks his question in Mel Gibson's monumental bloodbath, *The Passion of the Christ*—a film dedicated to being "as true as possible," according to its press kit—the governor speaks in Latin, a language Jesus would not have understood. In any version Pilate does not wait for an answer, but spins on his heels and departs, leaving his existential question to reverberate through the millennia. The Christ of faith has proved difficult enough for his followers to grasp; the Jesus of history remains even more elusive.

Not for Christians traditionalists, of course, who do not distinguish between the two. The *Passion*, a handsome cinematic epic from an antiquated (most Christians have half-forgotten that "Christ" is not a surname but a descriptive meaning "the anointed one")—to its uncritical embrace of the Gospel as history, is made far them. It's as if trying to question to what extent conservative American Protestants—*Passion*'s intended audience—will embrace the film's blood-soaked medieval Catholicism. The early signs are positive for Gibson. While film critics have been overwhelmingly repulsed, prominent pastors and many of their congregants have emerged enthralled. Christian stores that received their *Passion* merchandise after the movie's Ash Wednesday opening—when it grossed US\$23.6 billion in North America—reported brisk advance requests, particularly for tiny pocket replicas of crucifixion suits to be worn as penitents. But evangelical Christians who hoped the film would work as mirror—that is, convincing others to the faith—are liable to be disappointed. The gift of world views seems too great, not just between secular and religious,

Mel Gibson's controversial movie... raises questions about who Christ was and how he came to be crucified

but between the Christians who see their Scriptures as literal history and those who view them as metaphor.

For 200 years, scholars' consensus of the Gospels' feckless agenda—detailing the transformation of Jesus of Nazareth into Jesus Christ—have tried to peel back the finished product to find what lies beneath. It's called, pertinently enough, the quest for the historical Jesus, or at times in the U.S., the Jesus Myth. The search has been frustrating. Time and again it crashes against the cliff face that looms before all New Testament historical inquiry: There is sufficient third-party corroborated references by Roman observers, for the most part—to convince even the most secular historian that Jesus lived, preached, outraged the authorities and was crucified, probably in 30 CE.

And that's it.

Everything else comes from within the faith tradition: the 27 books of the New Testament and an equal number of so-called apocryphal works. The latter are writings that were not allowed into the canon—the authorized Christian texts—when it was finally hammered out in the fourth and fifth centuries. Like the canon itself, which reflexively granted among the texts that were accepted by early believers to create a tightly woven narrative, so too are the individual Gospels selective. John concludes with "there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books." These will raise their heads for those within the communion. But for many historians the burning questions—what did Jesus believe about himself, what did he say and do in opposition to what others said about him—seem forever beyond their grasp.

Scholars have no choice but to try to read between the lines, seeking lessons in the narrative thread, evidence of the living/dead tying up loose ends or stretching a point to make their accounts square with Old Testament prophecies. "That the Scripture should

be fulfilled" is one of the most common phrases in the New Testament, seen for instance when Karen soldiers imperiously toss dice for the privilege of winning the bloody rags of clothing stolen from the crucified Christ. The Gospel of John found their action odd enough that its author instead set a jewel-studded garment for Jesus, something worth gazing at.

Most biblical experts now agree much that is beloved in the Christian tradition, including the whole of Jesus' childhood. No virgin birth—it's in only two Gospels, and St. Paul, the earliest writer in the New Testament, rejects the idea—no wise men, no heavenly choir of angels, no debating the edict at age 12. All of it retrospectively applied by followers who believed an astounding figure must have shown signs and portents throughout his life. (Many scholars would allow that Jesus was a carpenter, since the description in verse 6 of Mark, the oldest of the Gospels, fits so Matthew, borrowing from Mark, seemingly found it unwise to tell the Son of David, and made him a carpenter's son.) But emotionally important as the Christ child accounts might be to millions, they do not go to the heart of the Gospel story.

The Resurrection does. And the passion stories are one of the main focuses of Protestants' interest. Around and unquestioned his tortured life—especially—the Evangelists weave the central drama of their transformation of the Jesus of history into the Christ of faith. And those same stories have also been for centuries the sharp edge of Christian anti-Semitism. The crucifixion assigned by Gideon's graph is violence in Jesus's life in comparison to the stories of anti-Semitism accusations brought on by his narrative fidelity to the Gospels, complex with scenes of scheming priests and a Jewish mob howling "crucify him, crucify him."

Since the Holocaust, Christians have looked at their anti-Semitic past in horror and wonderment just how much it was unconsciously rooted in the Gospels. The Evangelists described a handful of porous contracts, programs with future persecutions, particularly blasphemous not only from the crowd. "His blood be upon us, and on our children." Outside of those bars, and taken on their own terms, the Gospels can be read as describing the violent repression exercised by a corrupt power elite.

Like the Gospels can't now be taken only on their own terms. His story like the rest were written obliquely to the power within them. The Gospels, especially John, are the gateway to centuries of rear-

democratic Sermons. Medieval Passion plays, popular versions of Christ's death and resurrection whose villains were Jesus and the high priests (Jews), frequently led to anti-Jewish rioting and were put pagans. Protestants' civil leaders, Jewish as if Christian, often harried the entrances to Jewish ghettos in Eastern time.

Gibson reminded us, within the overarching Gospel narrative, as he sensitive to Jewish concerns. He even went outside the Biblical text to keep the blame fixed on particular individuals, Romans and Jewish. Scenes not attributable to the Evangelists show a Temple guard bribing soldiers to ensure the high priests have an anti-Jesus riot a crowd at the ready when they call on Pilate. And at the Seder trial, two priests try to speak on Jesus' behalf, but are fiercely silenced. However, Gibson falls down badly—probably without ever realizing he was in danger—with the face of Jesus. Expanding wildly on Matthew, who wrote only that after rejecting the beeper "went and has put himself," Gibson has a group of children, some whose faces briefly morph into Socratic visages, huddle a momentful Jesus into a circle. It's unclear what the director

was trying to express, but Jewish and Christian critics are appalled by what Gerald Canon, a Catholic priest who teaches Biblical studies at the Jesuit School of Theology in Haifa, calls "damned Jewish children." That's a charge echoed by Ruth Klein, an official with Knesset Canada, who denounces those same "vile images."

It hardly matters that the looting, violence in Jerusalem who actually carry out the torture and crucifixion come off as badly as any group of Jews, as Canon notes, they've left no direct descendants to be outraged by, or persecuted as their paternal Plot is played in the film exactly as he is laid out in the Gospels: devious and delicate—whatever. As much as they wanted to enslave, for the safety of their chosen Christian communities through out the Roman Empire, that their behavior was not purely of bloodthirsty imperial law, the Evangelists could not ignore the governor's role. It was one thing universally known about Jesus Christ: It was that Pontius Pilate signed the death warrant. The Roman historian Tacitus mentions it, as does his Jewish counterpart Josephus (who adds that he had seen the arguing of the Temple elite). Pilate is the sole figure from Jesus' trial to become part of the Nicene Creed, the most widely accepted credo statement of Christian faith. "For us who he was crucified and of Pontius Pilate."

THERE'S third-party evidence that Jesus lived, outraged the authorities and was crucified for it—and that's it



Gibson tried to be sensitive to Jews in his handling, for instance, of Jesus' meeting with Pilate (Depicted as Mandy Patinkin's 1980 cameo)

What the Evangelists made of the governor—the only man in Jerusalem with the power to crucify—has since invoked rage and despair in Jews as much of derelict, and a far more ambiguous response from Christians. In the Gospels, Pilate, having finally realized the right answer to "what is truth," repeats and becomes a saint. For most Christians, though, he became the eternal vacillating politician, a man who knows he's doing wrong but caves into expediency. Progressively, the Gospel writers make Pilate at best a weakling, at worst a judicial murderer, even though it was expediency, in fulfillment of the scriptures, for somebody—in Christian theology, everybody—to kill Christ. Only then could Jesus accomplish his purpose and bear the sins of the world.

It's axiomatic among historians that Pilate killed Jesus, and with

out illusion. On what happened next—physical, spiritual or metaphorical resurrection—there's no agreement. Just an axiomatic acknowledgment that Jesus left behind a small band of followers who began working out the meaning of the most shattering resurrection that lives. Seriously, scholars strive to find a way to evaluate the sayings and deeds ascribed to Jesus, sometimes with peculiar results.

The best known force in the quest has been the media savvy Jesus Seminar in California, once thought cutting edge and now considered an embarrassment by many mainstream academics. That's primarily because of its method of deciding whether a particular Gospel saying was uttered by Jesus or added to the account by an Evangelist. Participants voted, using colored beads, on whether the saying was certain, probable, improbable or impossible. Their

JESUS ON CELLULOID

From the early days of Hollywood, filmmakers have been trying to capture Christ as the big screen. Al Pacino's film critic Brian D. Johnson offers a top 10 list of Jesus movies

1. THE KING OF JUDAS (1975)

On Melville starts the biblical tale of Jesus. Mary Magdalene gets miffed at Jesus for refusing to reveal her identity in this biographical, which features actors, dancing girls and a cast of thousands.

2. THE HOLY LAND (1976)

Starring with Victor Mature and Anne Bancroft, Richard Burton plays a Roman tribune who makes his changes after the wine Christ's robe while gambling. The first motion picture shot in CinemaScope, it (inve-



inveigled Jesus, made good a respectable, and set the template for director

3. THE CRUCIFIXION (1976)

An omnibus of glorious biblical film, the star-studded cast includes Huston, John Wayne, Angela Lansbury, Sidney Poitier, John Lennon, Claude Rains, Kelly Slocum, Pat Boone and Max von Sydow as Jesus.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW (1966) As a cast of unrepentant, and authentic Jesus who has no time for his mother, Pier Paolo Pasolini's neo-realist



through the eyes of a black Jesus. THE LIFE OF BRIAN (1983) The Monty Python satire about a man mis-

take Jesus has a severe beauty. 4. JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR (1976) Jesus's film after the wayback rock opera music as it replicates the last six days of Christ's life. 5. THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW (1966) As a cast of unrepentant, and authentic Jesus who has no time for his mother, Pier Paolo Pasolini's neo-realist

6. THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST (2004)

Christ who imagines having sex with Mary Magdalene. 7. THE LAST TEMPTATION OF CHRIST (1966) In a brilliant modern parallel from Quebec's Denis Arcand, an actor cast as Jesus in a Passion film takes his role to



on his knees, and with every word in place, it feels like the largest story ever told.



It's agonistic among scholars that Pilate killed Jesus without hesitation and quite probably on the wings of the Temple clef

wendy cherry/ingapore/red meat "don't Jesus" pursued some of their peers, but the procedure's flawed methodology—statistically it's skewed to the right, maybe maybe not responses—altered for mass. Especially since it means the Service ended up being more Christ still about 18 per cent of what is attributed to him. Not was the reasoning impressive. After the Service noted that Christ did not compose the Lord's Prayer, one participant explained that elsewhere the Gospel showed Jesus drilled religious formalists. On what basis does parts of the text were deemed authentic was not explained. Too often the quest descends to this, reconstructing a historical Jesus based on no more than what appears to the writer.

Modern writers have done better in the area of emphasizing Christ's Jewishness and in reconstructing the society of first-century Palestine. Scholars by no means agree on what kind of Jew Jesus was—a devotee, as the American Catholic expert John Dominic Crossan, counted no fewer than seven distinct varieties ranging from political revolutionary to cheerful ascetic in recent books. But the new studies do provide our rich or contrary—what kind of living, marginalized peasant like Christ, his family and friends could have scraped, what they would have been used to believe, pray and produce.

But concern, however valuable in helping purge Christianity of racialist anti-Semitism, is a matter of "could have, should have." What of the long-sought hard historical fact is an effort? Previous little Experts may have barely expanded their tool kit—the body of

material they can mine—to include the Apocrypha on an equal basis to the New Testament, but their evidence is still from within the religious tradition. Crossan, whose own 1991 book, *The Historical Jesus: The Life of a Mediterranean Jewish Peasant*, is a milestone in the quest, describes the widely dangerous Jesus who was in other words as evidence that too many in the field write "theology and call it history." But from a more secular-minded position, Crossan shows as much unbiased thinking as any other biblical scholar.

More than a century ago the first wave of modern biblical historians made a major conceptual breakthrough, postulating a lost gospel—known as Q, meaning Quelle, German for "source"—to explain material common to the Gospels of Matthew and Luke but missing from Mark, their main source. A century is long enough to have made the idea of Q as familiar to scholars that a majority of them, including Crossan, treat it as an actual document. As one point Crossan writes that Q and the apocryphal Gospel of Thomas have about a third of their material in common—a head-spinning thing to say about a hypothetical text.

When even the most prominent of the scholars remain locked in this closed loop, doing theology rather than history—and with a faith that evokes the fundamentalism they reject—it may be that their labors will never yield more than "fact" than what is known now. Jesus lived, taught, was crucified. And now again, millions of people worldwide would said. The next no matter how often the life of Jesus is recounted in books or films—in silence, and faith. **B**



THE POWER AND THE GORY

Mel's version of Jesus' last hours is all about brutalized flesh, not spirit

YOU GET used to graphic images in this job. As a film critic I've had thousands, perhaps millions, of violent scenes imprinted on my retina. But I don't recall a movie that has depicted torture much lavishly, less harsh and excruciating detail as Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*. Much of the controversy around the film has focused on religious issues—from charges of anti-Semitism to concerns that Gibson is calling the Christian faith with a literal interpretation of the Bible. But what's most astonishing about *The Passion* is that it's so landily secular. Gibson has made a movie about flesh, not spirit—about what's kicked, beaten, flayed, paraded and lacerated for what seems like an eternity. Those scars won't heal, the body and the blood, acquire a whole new meaning, one that owes more to Hollywood splatter movies than the Gospels. I'm not sure Jesus ought to feel offended by *The Passion*, but Christians should.

Anyone stepping into the movie from another planet, knowing nothing about Christianity, would assume it's a barbaric cult of blood sacrifice.

Right-wing Christians tend to regard Hollywood as a smorgasbord of carnal pleasures, a soulless disease we chase tempting us with images of sex and violence.

Gibson, however, appears to have made a deal with the devil. Although he's said he feels his movie was directed by rote rather than the Holy Ghost (!) can't wait for the director's cut. In terms like the work of a silent-film apprentice, conjuring baroque blood in the wake of the Lord. Biblical types, from Ben-Hur to *The Bible*, have always wielded a double-edged sword, reflecting us with knowledge muddy and gory translation, then soothing our inflated souls with the solace of spiritual redemption. But those sword-and-sandal movies explored religious faith in the name of cinematicism. With *The Passion*, it's the other way around.

The movie covers the last 12 hours of Christ's life. And so magnifies his torment. Gibson pulls out every dirty bit of Hollywood melodrama from the opening scene in the Garden of Gethsemane, where spooky suspense music indicates that Jesus is about to have a very bad day, to the *Deus Ex Machina* of a child in the arms of an agony-ridden Satan.

The problem with *The Greatest Story Ever Told* is that we know how it ends. The truly devoted still love to relive it over and over again, in a form of amniotic worship, which is why there's such a lucrative trade in

Gibson (with Caviezel) has said he feels the Holy Ghost director.



capture movies made to order for the Christian market. That's why producer Gareth Dribbley's Christian-financed *The Gospel of John* found a healthy audience last year despite a plodding script that's a word-for-word replica of the Scripture. And the makers of the 2009 film, *Jesus*, claim that 5.6 billion people have seen it (meaning repeat customers), although I've never met any of them.

By focusing on Christ's final hours, *The Passion* leaves out *The Greatest Story's* most familiar touchstones—the miracles, which are usually treated out as a litany of great evil. (We Jews, perimaged with more conviction by Jim Caviezel, is lovely a character; as the movie progresses, he's reduced to an icon of raw physical suffering. Gibson occasionally breaks from the torture to indulge in cozy, buddy-buddy flashbacks—including a wacky conversation between Jesus and his mother about a table he needs. Mary (Mia McGovern) looks like a carpenter, not why he made the table to sell. The sign at his rich folk, who like him up high. And as this joking Jesus shares a laugh with Mary, it's as if he's just a regular guy who loves his mom but happens to be the Son of God. For most of the film, Mary simply looks on in anguished silence as her boy accepts his fate. Mary Magdalene (Monica Bellucci) has a similar role. As the Samaritan (Katharine Isabelle), a hooded woman with no eyebrows and a snake under his or her robe, he or the last just a scene, he is an apparition from an ignorant Bergman movie. The real villain is Caiaphas (Matti Sbaragli), the Jewish high priest who sets a Lynch mob on Jesus. Whether or not the movie is anti-Semitic, one can see how his character might inflame anti-Jewish sentiment.

The only compelling drama in *The Passion* turns on the intricate plot designed by Passion Plots, who's portrayed with striking complexity by Judean actor Efrat Mizruchi. She's a woman who gives you to speculate as Pilate delivers Jesus to a gang of Roman soldiers, who beat the bejesus out of him with a grisly arsenal of whips and scourges, turning his body into a messy quail of blood. Her complicity runs rampant as the torture goes on and on, continuing through the excruciating dead-man-walking march with

Gentleman with
shock conviction, but
his focus is reduced to
raw suffering.

the cross, until Christ's arm is
wrenched out of their sockets
and the women close in for the
money shot—spikes being hammer-
ed through his hands in
Dolby stereo.

Gibson swears all this hap-
pened. I'm still looking for the
the place in the Bible where a
cross plucks out the eye of the bad
that on the cross next to Jesus
that that's not the point. I have
no quarrel with filmmaker
overseeing, even wildly trans-
ferring, fiction or non-fiction
for the sake of art. What's in
danger is Gibson's proposition
claim that his pageant of sadness
accurately represents both the
Gospel and history itself. The
special effects got in the way

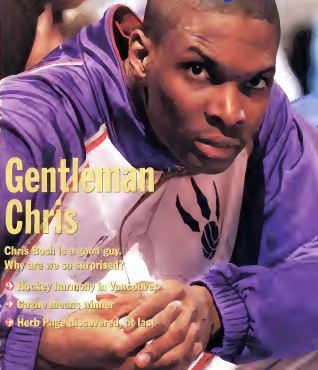
is a device, and all it represents is the filmmaker's desire to provide
a visceral reaction. Gibson is an old hand at this. As the star of
blood-drenched epics such as *Braveheart* and *The Passion*, he's ex-
perienced at churning gore into sentiment. Martyrdom seems
to be his thing. Even in his more comic roles, as *Mind Men* and
Let's Wiggle's Martin Riggs, he reveals a taste for self-flagellation.

But as he tortures his Jesus (and his audience) with *The Passion*,
Gibson is using cruelty to induce a spiritual response.
It's doubtful that he'll convert any non-believers. At
best, the movie evokes a kind of voyeuristic arousal
on the margins of civilization. As with pornography, causing soon
gives way to revulsion, then boredom. A lot of hand-
made Hollywood blockbusters, from *T.T. to Titanic*,
adhere to transcendence mostly lacking in *The Passion*. Yet despite
the enormous reviews, I keep running into people who are going
to see it for themselves. Not medicine show but become a media
event, a potent mixture of celebrity, religion and make-out.

The bookends of evangelical Christianity (and schoolchildren) who
are being urged to see *The Passion* as an act of faith will be exposed
to levels of screen violence utterly foreign to their experience, the
kind of torturous cruelty seen only in hard-core grind films. A lot
of them will also be seeing their first subtitled movie. With all the
dialogue in Latin and Aramaic, Gibson adds a mysterious patina
of authenticity (Never mind that these imperial skinheads would
have spoken a dialect of Greek, not Latin.) Actually, what I find
best about the film was the strange sound of the language. Amer-
ica should make more blockbusters in Aramaic and Latin.

The Passion is undeniably exotic. How often do you get to see
American foreign-language blockbusters directed by a Hollywood
studio on a mission from God? After all the save-the-world, we can
only wait for the backlash, for someone like Quentin Tarantino to
produce *Mind Men* a sequel. To give Gibson credit, with *The Passion*
he's passionately striving for art, trying to paint the modern
equivalent of a Caravaggio canvas on an actor's body. But a world
engulfed by holy war, it's one scary picture.

ROGERS & BROS sportsnet Magazine



Gentleman Chris

Chris Bosh is a good guy.

Why are we so surprised?

➔ Hockey harmony in Vancouver

➔ Gagne means winner

➔ Herb Page discovered, at last



WORTH THE TIME INVESTED

GIBSON'S FINEST

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GIBSON'S FINEST 12 YEAR OLD

WHEN ONLY THE FINEST WILL DO

PLEASE

THE UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA
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STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS

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SCOTT MORRISON
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Stop the presses! There are more good eggs than bad ones in this sporting basket.

At a time when the headlines in *Sportsnews* and the morning papers are far too often about big money and greed, sex scandals, labour cases, prime donors, riots on television, assaults, hell, even murder... a story of these about some sold citizens is rather refreshing.

And that is what we have to offer in this fifth edition of *Sports and Magazines*. Fresh and interesting pieces about fellows who have their feet firmly planted on their various playing grounds.

Los Angeles Dodgers bullpen ace Eric Gagne, the unlikely kid from Montreal, was absolutely perfect last season. In a sport in which succeeding three times in 10 with a bat makes you a superstar, how about converting 55 consecutive save opportunities and 63 overall en route to capturing the Cy Young award? Incredible.

As Kevin McLeod illustrates, Gagné 205 is "the best-grounded star in baseball," if he didn't play a game that the majority of Canadians hardly care about, on

the west coast of another country, you'd know more about him. But it probably wouldn't make a difference to Gagne.

The same can be said for a 5d-year-old otherwise ordinary guy from Marikina City, named Heri Page. An associate editor and golf analyst John Gordon writes: Page has led a folkloric life, but has never lost his humility. Page, as many don't know is the West Coast golf coach whom Ben Curtis credits with helping him win the British Open last summer. As

way of saying thanks, Curtis has invited Page to be his caddy at the Masters in April. Another nice Canadian guy doing well.

And, finally, there is Toronto Raptors rookie Chris Bosh, who is being tested as a future NBA all-star. He is also, as Bill Harris reports, a closet gay.

Hey, stop the presses! There are more good eggs than bad ones in this particular sporting basket.

We hope you enjoy these exceptions to the rule in this issue of *Sportsnet Magazine*. 

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Gentleman Chris

Chris Bosh is a good guy. Why are we so surprised?

By Bill Martin

Most people are shocked when they discover that the Toronto Raptors' rookie sensation, Chris Bosh, can string sentences together that make sense and express more than his limitless admiration for himself. So what does our reaction say about pro sports in general and the National Basketball Association in particular?

"It says that we are lowering our standards of what we expect from the players on the floor," says Raptors coach Kevin O'Neill, whose club drafted Bosh fourth overall last June and now is anointing him as centre. "All of a sudden, when someone is a good guy, a hard worker and a good player, he stands out. I think the public, our league, everybody we get impressed with things that maybe should be basic things that we all have as a way of life. Unfortunately that's the way we are right now, but hopefully it can turn around for us a little bit."

There are signs that things may be turning around already. One of the most consistent compliments paid to Bosh and fellow draftsmen LeBron James of the Cleveland Cavaliers (the first pick) and Carmelo Anthony of the Denver Nuggets (the third pick) is that they seem to be throwbacks to a time when there was no filth in tennis.

But with insight and maturity beyond his 19 years, Bosh ad-opts either not to gain the media's attention with the same bombast that most of the time if one person out of 20 acts bad, that will make the whole class seem bad. That's sometimes because the good behaviour is so much the norm that when somebody does something bad, it's even more noticeable. That's what I think, anyway, if that matters."

Yes, Chris. It does matter, your humility notwithstanding. It's worth noting that Bosh's basketball heroes include Eric Drott, a snarler, jerk, pokers, level-headed individual who has led the San Antonio Spurs to two NBA titles and has been the league's MVP in the past two seasons, and multi-talented Kevin Garnett of the Minnesota Timberwolves. In addition to their composed, efficient approach to basketball and life, all three share similar tall and slender body types.



"Being a skinny guy playing a big man's position, I've been kind of a target all my life," Bosh says. "All the guys are going to try to body me out, but it's nothing new. I can handle myself."

Having emerged from his childhood in Dallas, Tex., as a lanky but strong six-foot, 20-inch, 258-pound basketball star, Bosh is the first member of his class even to take a serious interest in sports, let alone to earn his living from them. As defenses were first and foremost in the Bosh household, which made it a monumental decision when Chris agreed to leave college after one year at Georgia Tech and dedicate himself eligible for the NBA draft.

"It's not that my parents ever gave me grief about my love of basketball," Bosh says. "But they always warned me about the dangers of making basketball the only focus of my life. So I've used no mainstay the proper perspective." His parents can take pride in their son's success, which didn't go unnoticed by people like Raptors general manager Glen Grunwald.

"We were at the All-Star Game in Atlanta (in February 2003) and, as it happened, Georgia Tech was playing at home on the Saturday of All Star weekend," Grunwald recalls. "So I went to see this kid named Chris Bosh. He played pretty well, but he was still a freshman, and the strong word at the time was that he was going to stay in school. So I just said to myself, 'Okay, life that may be future relevance.'"

Soon after, the word was out that Bosh was considering going pro, Grunwald says. "We really started to focus on him after the draft lottery and it was established that we had the number-four pick. We would have checked him out even if we had number one, but it was kind of a weird draft year. Everybody figured that James,



Chris Bosh: "Being a skinny guy playing a big man's position, I've been kind of a target all my life."

Anthony and Darius Miles, who was selected second overall by the Detroit Pistons, were going to be the top three picks. "That wasn't really so bad for Chris," Raptors guard Vince Carter says. "Looking back, those top three guys had to deal with a lot of extra stuff. Chris has been able to come in and just play basketball."

Bosh is well aware that he was the fourth player taken in a draft that supposedly was three players deep. Far from discouraging him, it is a sign of his emotional maturity that he uses it as an asset.

"You can't help but follow the progress of LeBron and Carmelo," he says. "Watching my own highlights show on a night they play, you're going to see them. You see them in the cover of magazines all the time. But that doesn't bother me. That's not what it's about for me. Quite frankly I'd admit I had to deal with all the pressure LeBron has to deal with his hand going for me as it is."

Bosh seems to be dealing gracefully with his situation, although like any first-year player he has had his ups and downs on the court. He began the season like a comet, more than juggling the team's confidence in him. After the Raptors pulled out a huge trade on December 1 - Antonio Davis, Jerome Williams and Chris Jefferson went from the Raptors to the Chicago Bulls for John Rose, Doug Marshall and Lenny Rister - there was good news and bad news.

The good news was that Bosh now was a starter. The bad news was, as a slightly mobile centre, he was matched up against bigger, stronger, more experienced opponents. Inevitably, Bosh slumped down in January, when a minor knee injury kept him out of action for a week or so. But upon his return, it was obvious that he had lost none of the maturity or enthusiasm for which he was loved. "How good can he be?"

"I think he can be an all-star some day," Grunwald says.

Coach O'Neill concurs. "I think the sky's the limit for the kid, as long as he doesn't get derailed."

Perhaps the most difficult adjustment for Bosh is the one that nobody can do anything about. Asked for the main difference between Toronto and Dallas, Bosh replies, "Toronto is a lot colder and a lot colder."

The adjustment for Raptors fans to a first-round draft choice who is a scholar, a gentleman, and a potential all-star will be much easier. **B**

Bill Martin is a basketball columnist with The Toronto Star.

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Gagne means winner

Eric Gagne has already lived up to his name. How much longer can he do it?

By Kevin Modest

On the day in November when he was named the winner of the National League Cy Young Award, his prize for the outstanding pitching performance of 2003 (and perhaps the most extraordinary relief-pitching display ever), Eric Gagne appeared at a Dodger Stadium press conference dressed in chic all-black, shirt-tail tucked, curly hair cropped, goatee trimmed.

For fans and reporters alike, it was Gagne's unrelaxed appearance on the red carpet the effect was as startling as if the best-looking actor in Hollywood rolled onto the back lot in a torn undershirt and sweaty bandana. Errol, folks. Secorin has not gone to Eric Gagne's once they go hard.

No one knows better than he does that clothes don't make the man, just as a Cy Young Award doesn't get you a World Series ring.

The 38-year-old Montreal native and off-season resident goes into this year's campaign as the best-graded star in baseball, having posted up the record season, winning buster cannot be with his wife, Valerie, during a difficult pregnancy.

"With a family like we have, you have to be grounded," says

few warm-weather cities can hold. Following the deep breath of the off-season, he was preparing for spring training and a challenge to which very few players in the history of baseball could relate.

After setting a single-season record by converting all 55 of his save opportunities last season, and another straddled by converting 43 in a row during back to August 2002, Gagne will put his streak on the line every day he pitches.

In the process, he becomes part of the winning history of league-leading bullpen closers, trying to keep their titles. In the past 10 years, the National League has had 10 different saves leaders. In the past 15 years the American League has had 14. (The New York Yankees Mariano Rivera is the only two-time leader in that period.)

And he has shooed footed at Dodger Stadium, where he owns a full-season ownership change and its shares in the trade and free-agent market earned more than the usual circumstances for the franchise that hasn't won so much as a

playoff game since its 1988 World Series championship.

After weakening the National League's best pitching staff by trading big-money starting pitcher Kevin Brown and losing bullpen setup man Paul Quantrill, the Dodgers hoped to improve the league's worst hitting order over the winter. The big hitter the team needed had arrived by the end of January, though, and still hasn't when the team's manager, Jim Lincecum, sold the team to real-estate developer Frank McCourt.

Assuming these hurdles are overcome, how can Gagne even make perfect, let alone improve upon it?

"Easy," Gagne says with the bluntness of a boxer. "You don't miss any [pitch] spots. You don't ever give up a base hit. You don't ever give up a walk. You don't ever give up a run. You make the playoffs. You make the World Series. You make the World Series. You make the World Series."

He was kidding, of course. What he?

"It's going to be easy to do better than this," Gagne says of the team that finished second in 2003. "Just make the playoffs."



PITCHER PERFECT

The Dodgers' Eric Gagne leaves the only pitcher in major-league history to go through a 50-game season with 20 or more saves and no runs allowed. In 2003, he set a single-season record with 55 saves, leading the Dodgers to a 100-win season.

Despite his Cy Young, Gagne says last year was disappointing because the Dodgers didn't win the World Series. But he faced few other disappointments. He became the only pitcher in major-league history to go through a 102-game season with 20 or more saves and not blow an opportunity. He matched John Smoltz's National League record of 25 saves and put himself second in major-league history to Billy Wagner's 57. He broke Tim Lincecum's record of 54 consecutive save conversions. He became the first major-league pitcher to lose consecutive 45-save seasons. He became the fastest to reach 100 saves in

his career, doing it in his second season as the Dodgers' closer. And he became the most efficient strikeout pitcher in major-league history, his 35.8 strikeouts per nine innings blanketing Billy Wagner's record of 34.9.

And keep in mind that the relatively youthful Gagne all but reinvented himself in 2003 with his switch to the relief role and the mastery of a changeup. Now all he needs is a strong supporting cast that will get him those precious leads to protect.

Gagne, who has known only the Dodgers since signing with

them in 1995, professed not to be worried about the franchise's will to win.

"They have a great history of winning," says Gagne, who made \$528,000 last season but was about to get rich at salary arbitration after asking for \$8 million for this season and receiving \$5 million. "I'm glad I'm here, and there's nowhere I'd rather be."

Going to training camp in Vero Beach, Fla., Gagne admits any changes in his approach this season will be fragments of regression, searching for original ideas. "You guys think it's different," he says, "but it's still different. I'll just try to do the same

thing over again. That's why I like baseball. It doesn't matter how much success or how much failure you had, you've got to start over."

Kevin Modest is a sports columnist for The Los Angeles Daily News.

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Mike Fisher (left) and Todd Bertuzzi celebrate.

Happy together

After painful years of discord, the Vancouver Canucks have found harmony at last.

By Tony Gallagher

The investor Thomas Edison once said, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that will not work."

Former Vancouver Canucks owner Arthur Griffiths said, later, John McCaw may have said the same thing as Pat Quinn was losing the general manager's position with the team six years ago to be replaced by Mike Keenan.

The Canucks had been almost as many dead ends as Thomas Edison. In 1995, introduction of Canucks games was planned, but, several seasons went by, then a Tucson summer and McCaw claimed that Canucks Sports and Entertainment,

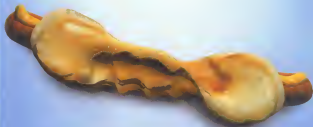
the company that owns the club, was losing US\$30 million a season.

Then, Stan McCammon, Canucks president and CEO, began making some moves. He began by hiring Brian Burke as general manager in June 1998 while Keenan remained as coach.

Many people think this marked the watershed in the

Canucks' fortunes. McCammon began to differ.

"There's no question that left some outstanding assets in place here, and both Mike and Brian have contributed heavily since then," says McCammon, the longest-serving of all ownership arrangements people in the Vancouver organization. "You have to remember we had Peter [Bain, Alexander Maglay,



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Mark Messier, Trevor Linden and quite a few other decent players. It's just that they weren't working on ice.

In fact they were playing one of the most discordant tunes in the NHL. The move to being some harmony to this cacophony began in earnest when Kerenan traded Linden, a.k.a. "Mr. Canuck," to the New York Islanders for Todd Bertuzzi and Bryan McCabe. Bertuzzi had a solid best line under the doc-

trine, and their pay-per-view program has turned into one of the few successes in Canadian digital television. Spouses were to be associated with

“We had good players but no structure.”

halfway through his first season. But he has done former.

He has accomplished the undervalued feat of getting value for value in this significance under lending lid (Jovanovski for him, Brendan Morrison for Hagglund, and Doug Gilmour for Adrian Aucoin). Then he nudged, poked and screamed at them to play the right way.

Another big factor was Messier. “Guy had so much respect for him, he’d

where they are today. “The trade to get Bert and McCabe was huge,” says Gilmour. “I myself a Queen draft choice crucial to the team’s ascendancy. It wasn’t popular at the time, but it turned out to be a great move.”

As GM, Burke has received a lot of credit, but McCannan adds a proviso: “There is no organizational success without a good organization.” By this he means a lot of people should get credit from McCannan right on

Herb, we hardly know you



Markus Näslund: “Guy [Burke] is a real man, so we were shocked.”



Brendan Morrison: “I’ve been with coaches and Mike [Burke]. You have to look at the management, coaches and players.”

PHOTO BY JAMES LAM

steps of Markus Näslund, when Quinn had reformed from Pittsburgh for the forgettable Alex Stepien. The resulting good scoring melody came too late to save Kerenan, but it put a new rhythm in Burke’s step.

In the fall of 2000, the Canucks exploded from their Swedish training camp and made the playoffs for the first time since 1996 before losing to Colorado. But hockey-kind Vancouver saw signs of potential and from this day of hope sprung red emotions.

“The Canucks bombed last season with a club record 184 points. This year, they stand a serious contender for the Stanley Cup. Their television ratings are now among the best in the

team. Fans are proud to wear Canucks jerseys in public. And revenues, which grew by more than 75 per cent in 2002, can’t be too far off from the same in the standings.”

“What turned this team around from my perspective was the blossoming of two decent players, Markus and Todd, into superstars,” says director of hockey operations Dave Nonis. “That and the fact we were able to make good deals to bring in and re-sign good players with the assets we had and spend them together. From there we built some depth.”

As general manager, Burke admits his best move was “signing Marc Crawford to come in and coach” after firing Kerenan

him in so much awe, that they were almost intimidated by him. We realized we had to pick up our whole mentality and the way we approached the game. And guys did.”

Defenceman Brent Sapei, in his sixth season as a Canuck, participated in the process from the beginning. “When Kerenan was here, we had good players but there was no structure,” he says. “You have to look at the management, coaches and players. Management blended the group together. kept it together with key signings, and believed in it. From there, we started to believe in each other.”

Yellow alderman Matthias Ohlund insists that one essential move led the Canucks to

down the ranks through himself, Quinn, Kerenan, Bader, Norris, Crawford, and Chief Operating Officer Dave Cobb. And did we mention the other banking section?

Especially some of these 10,000 ways are working after all.

Dany Gailagher is a hockey columnist with The Vancouver Province.



HOCKEYCENTRAL AT THE DEADLINE

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You'll see him carrying Ben Curtis's bag at this year's Masters. He played football and hockey and drove the Zamboni at university. He is probably the most successful golf coach Canada has ever produced. Yeah, that guy.

By John Gordon

If you thought the image last July of virtual unknown Ben Curtis winning the British Open was impossible, you ain't seen nothing yet.

You want virtual unknown? Meet Herb Page: the pride of Markham, Ont. At the age of 51, Page has

been the golf coach at Ohio's Kent State University for 26 years. Although Curtis credited a putting tip from his former coach for helping him win the

Open, contributing to Curtis's success is just one of Page's noteworthy achievements. In addition to Curtis, Page has coached a series of excellent players, including some outstanding Canadian ones from across the country. These northern scoundrels include David

Moffat IV of North Bay, Ont. now on the PGA Tour, and Nashville Tour player Jon Mills of Brooklyn, Ont., who last year became the first Canadian since Mike Weir to win the Canadian Tour's Order of Merit. In recognition of his abilities, Page was inducted into the Golf



Game Over
MIKE TOTTH

Sportsnetnews: Get it in you! When it comes to catchy phrases, we take them where we can find them.

My brother-in-law, Dave, is a professional waiter. When he's looking to liven up a table of hungry kids, he slips down the chow and shouts, "Get it in you!" Since kids eat it up, literally and figuratively, Brother Dave believes the phrase would make a great opening line for the people who watch our show.

It definitely got a ring to it. But before making a decision to add it to my on-air arsenal, I consulted the masters of dialogue innovation, my colleagues Jim Lang and Peter Louderman.

Lang has been a regular on Sportsnetnews since October and has quickly become a fan favourite because of his verbal parades. When he belts out his trademark "Loving it!", he can imagine the TV audience going wild.

His inspiration came from another TV legend: Maxwell Smart. In the classic television series, Get Smart, an end of CHARGES agent usually threatens our hero Max. "In a minute, Mr. Smart!", he says, "I'm going to be torturing you, beating you, whipping you and loving it!"

Lang loved it, too. The rest is history.

Other Jim-dunked?

"I have several!" An old radio buddy of mine used that line around the office, "remember Lang," and started saying it on the air.

"That's just sick!" ("I was flip-



ping around the table and heard an announcer shout, 'Michael Vick is just sick!', and I thought our young viewers might get a kick out of it.")

"You're flip, stupid!" ("Everybody in hockey talks about needing a stout defence-man and since being a stout seems to be the ultimate sports compliment, I started working it in.")

When it comes to Langisms, not everyone in the audience is loving it! And Lang admits to having his share of critics. But for those who complain "That's just sick!", he has only one thing to say: "I have no idea!"

"I've been in this business for 17 years," says Lang. "It took me a long time to get to this level. Now that I'm here, I've got to do this show the way that feels right for me."

Lang certainly has some one-

pany when it comes to colourful commentary. Peter Louderman is a popular Sportsnetnews host and also performs play-by-play duties at the network. If

you're familiar with Louderman, then you've heard the following phrases:

"You're looking good and you're looking young!" ("That's from a George Carlin routine poking fun at senior citizens," laughs Louderman. "There he is: 30 years young!")

"That's some kind of play!" ("I yelled it out in the stands at a hockey game one night, and the play beside me started laughing his head off.")

"There's the old trucker's special! over and out!" ("About 10 summers ago, I was gifting boxes with calling harmonies. I heard an old trucker's song on a country radio station and

thought I could do something with it in the baseball highlights.")

Louderman says boredom is one of the major reasons why sports announcers make the decision to put a spin on their dialogue. "You're always looking to spice things up. I'll sometimes throw a line out in the newsroom to see if it gets a reaction. If my co-workers think it is funny, there's a pretty good chance some of the audience will enjoy it, too."

Lang and Louderman are definitely on the right track. After all, we live in a 24-hour channel universe. To keep people's attention, you've got to dare to be different.

So here goes: I'm just a few hours away from heading another show and...I've got only one thing to say: "Welcome to Sportsnetnews. Get it in you!"

Mike Toth is a co-anchor of Sportsnetnews Monday to Thursday with Darren Miller.

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Photo essay | BY ROGER LEMOYNE

UP AGAINST THE WALL

Israel's controversial West Bank security barrier goes on trial in The Hague

THE IDEA was controversial from the start. Now, nearly two years after the government of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon first started building the West Bank security barrier to separate Israelis from Palestinians, hearings on its legality are underway at the International Court of Justice in The Hague. The process got off to a rocky start: one day before the arguments began, a Palestinian suicide bomber killed 13 people on a Jerusalem bus. Israel is boycotting the hearings, saying the court is not a "proper venue" for the government's views were represented by supporters who squared off against pro-Palestinian protesters outside the building.

Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza also held demonstrations. But construction of the barrier, which is a combination of fences, concrete walls, trenches and man-made exclusion zones, is proceeding. About a quarter of a planned 640-km length is complete, already, it has divided communities and cut off some Palestinians from their farms and families. Moroccan-based photographer Roger Lemoine recently spent two weeks in the area on special assignment for *Maclean's*, capturing images of the barrier. **Q**

The planned 640-km-long barrier, a combination of concrete walls, fences, trenches and no-go areas, is dividing Palestinian communities





Even as Palestinians argue their case at the International Court of Justice, construction continues. About one-quarter of the barrier is finished.



A PLAGUE WITHOUT A CURE

Anti-Semitism is alive and sick—and flourishing most everywhere

THE PAST MONTH has seen a fair amount of activity as what the Nazis called "Judenfrage" or the "Jewish Question." European Commission President Romano Prodi assured delegates to an anti-Semitism conference in Brussels that there was absolutely no similarity between Europe's current outbreak of anti-Semitic violence and that of the thirties. The UN, having last fall voted that Israel's security fence was illegal, went to the International Court of Justice in the Hague (without the consent or participation

of Israel) to get its position confirmed. Business as usual for the Chosen People. The new Jewish Question presided Hitler. It first surfaced in England in 1753. At issue was the highly controversial "Jew Bill" (officially known as the Jewish Naturalization Bill) designed to give foreign-born Jews in England the ability to acquire citizenship and some political rights. The bill passed, only to be repealed a few months later, but the phrase had entered the language.

By the 19th century, the Jewish Question was shorthand for the Jewish Problem, which had been a subject of debate for several thousand years. What should we do with our Jews, asked Europe. What rights and place should they have in society? Karl Marx gave birth to the Left's solution in his essay "About the Jewish Question," which suggested a world without Jews or Judaism. With this essay, Marx established the new-fangled racism of self-hatred among far-left Jews.

Jews themselves debated: The Question: Was there safety in assimilation or in a homeland? Was it better to work for tolerance in your own society or in Palestine? European modernism, alternating dread of peaceful co-existence with the cries of "kleg, kleg, Judes vermed" (death to all Jews). Like some terrible virus, the Jewish Question erupted sporadically, mutating this way and that, but always returning to base of primitive fear and hatred. The 20th century came in with pogroms in Russia and Poland and carried on into the Holocaust. This current is now expressed in the verbal pogroms of the UN, which has effectively evolved into the world center of anti-Semitism. Verbal pogroms are

preferable to physical ones, of course. Unfortunately, one often leads to the other. The welcoming of a gun-toting Yasser Arafat by the UN General Assembly in 1974 led, unsurprisingly, straight to today's suicide bombings.

In this context, last month's shenanigans are normal. Prodi's rejection of any comparison to the thirties is based on his apparent view that the current harassment of Jews is not state-sponsored. But all historical parallels are slightly skewed. History repeats itself in different ways. There is no question that Jews in Europe, especially visible ones wearing skullcaps—or the wankers of a Jewish soccer team in France—face threats akin to those of the thirties. The only difference is that the worry of being knotted down on the street comes not from another European

trality to condemn the fence and engage in a brief Israel bashing. Liberal MP Tim O'Brien from London, Ont., joined the bandwagon with his Commons remarks suggesting the fence has created "concentration camps."

It is inphany to call such activities legitimate political criticism and not jihadist anti-Semitism. Standards are being used here that are applicable only to Israel and to no other party in the conflict. In the face of murderous hostility to its existence, Israel is expected to behave with suicidal restraint, unqualified by any other country in the world. The crowds marching in London's Trafalgar Square at the West Bank's Ramallah with their "Death to the Jews" signs have in lesser nouns of the alphabet a Canadian parliamentarian. But what those crowds demonstrate, vividly, is how the virus of anti-Semitism jumped from Europe to the Islamic world and then, under the camouflage of the Arab-Israeli conflict, took a receptive Europe for infection.

Meanwhile, critics of the fence say they would not object if Israel would build it along the 1949 border (the Green Line). To do this, Israel would be unwillingly accepting Palestinian demands without getting anything in return—merely a cessation of terrorism and an understanding of peace.

Suicide bombings, unfortunately, are strategic farmers' grows and roots to hospitals to infiltrate Israel. There seems to be an obdurate blindness to the fact that rejectionist Arabs and Muslims refuse to accept the existence of the state of Israel within any borders.

So the Jewish Question rumbles on. It may be the price Jews must pay for their coexistence with Jews. For having gone on coexisting with Jews, other nations from biblical times have turned to dust. Is it worth the price? It is uncertainly how second thoughts about a deal made with God.

Barbara Amel's column appears monthly. barbaraamel@aol.com

STANDARDS are being used here that are applicable only to Israel. In the face of murderous hostility to its existence, it is expected to behave with suicidal restraint.

as it did in the thirties, but frequently, according to a yet-to-be-released EIU study, from a young Muslim who is either an immigrant or the son of one. This makes little difference to the Jew attacked. Prodi's group of officers, too, to declare the pre-Hitler anti-Semitism of the Weimar Republic was not state policy but private enterprise.

The construction of Israel's security fence has been a splendid opportunity for mass organizations and individuals to make a periodic emergence from their closets on the Jewish Question. The International Committee of the Red Cross abandoned its cus-



A RIGHTS REVOLUTION

Canadians are trying to help Afghan women shake off centuries of oppression

THE WOMEN of Afghanistan are glazing seeds that might someday produce a crop that makes this whole sorry country prosper. They are promoting human rights, as bizarre a concept to most Afghans today as terrorism attacks were to most North Americans prior to 9/11. That's especially true for women here, perhaps the most oppressed in the world. They weren't even registered as citizens until the new constitution was adopted last December; girls are fed less and less than after the men and boys. So the notion that they have the right to vote, to education and to health care has excited a buzz in every province in the country. And while Afghan women are getting the word out, Canadians are helping foot the bill.

The brainchild of Arzane Razaee, the women's rights coordinator at Rights &

in Billabio, women are taught reading and writing, with a little politics on the side.

Democracy in Montreal, and funded by the Canadian International Development Agency, the Afghan Women's Rights Fund started in September 2002. Its backers say it's one of the most international programs in Afghanistan today. "A window of opportunity opened when the Taliban fell," says Razaee. "If women were ever to get out of the oppressive band they were in, they had to be part of the emerging civil society. It takes rights to do this. Most women had no idea they had the right to anything at all." Razaee secured the funding from CIDA and hired Pulawati Hatan, a 33-year-old woman who has been advocating for the disenfranchised in Afghanistan for 15 years, first under the

Communists and then under the Taliban. "By pushing for a Women's Rights Fund, headed by an Afghan woman, you accomplish two things," says Hatan. "You ensure that women are visible and make it clear to funders that this is a long-term project."

At present, Hatan is funding 16 projects from Mazar-i-Sharif in the north to the streets of Kabul. No one guessed the program would flourish as quickly as it did, although predictably, the backlash has been ferocious: wealthy and religious extremists who regard the initiatives as anti-Islam.

Poorer training and radio broadcasting to magazine publishing and family health care, among one of the Afghan programs under human rights to be. For example, on the second floor of a mud-brick building on Bibi Mahroon, the outskirts of Kabul, 25

women are gathered around a classroom table learning to read and write. The lesson today is based on the upcoming general election. In fewer than a dozen words Lina Abdullah, 19, makes a point that is a humorous analogy for the mess this country finds itself in. She refers to her illiteracy as being blind. When asked to explain the connection, she says bluntly, "I couldn't read so I couldn't see what was going on."

The women in the classroom are encouraged to take what they've learned back to their villages to share with friends and relatives. One woman, 18-year-old Mery Maimonadi, says, "I have six brothers who always said I couldn't argue with them because I was illiterate. One brother slapped me on my face for speaking about my rights. Now I know more about the women and children's rights than they do." That is sadly typical—Afghans react generally against these upstart ideas. "We tell them equality is written in the Koran and the constitution, but it's a big argument," says Maimonadi. For that reason, Hatan is proud of her projects but wary—she says from behind other masked by students. "I won't quit," she says. "The work we are doing is too important."

Since the end of the war and the fall of the Taliban, some programs have been women returned to their workplaces, and schools for girls reopened. But as many as 36 of those schools have been forbidden in the last year. This is a country where child marriages are the norm: girls as young as 5 are betrothed to much older men, and bride prices still exist, meaning young girls are sold to their highest bidder. Women are raped to subdue a tribe, and daughters are used to settle scores—of one woman is killed in revenge, the killer's family gave a girl to the victim's family to make amends. And in Herat, where warlord families still rule, girls are pushed off the street and subjected to abusive gynecological examinations to prove their virginity.

Hatan is trying to get these issues into public discussion. The quickest way to get people talking, she says, is to train women as advocates and news generators of women. But first she has to find ways to reach them,



Hatan is proud of her program, but wary of fundamentalists who do not support change.

not easy in a country with an 85 per cent illiteracy rate. So one project she's funding is radio broadcasting. Journalists (some from Canada) are training young women to be radio technicians, to do interviews and to create programming that touches human rights and can be heard by women who might not be able to read. Currently, they are working with a station—so a fifth another Canadian

LINA ABDULLAH, 19, refers to her illiteracy as being blind: 'I couldn't read, so I couldn't see what was going on.'

aid organization, Vancouver-based INWCS—in Mazar-i-Sharif, where hard-line warlords hold power. Radio programs encourage women to stand for doctors, work on the sanitation and share information about human rights with villages. Participants are afraid provoking the warlords' henchmen who have locked the tiny broadcast centre, warning for an excuse to shut the project down. For those who can read, Hatan is funding

The Mirror, a four-page weekly magazine that reaches 3,000 readers in 16 provinces. The almanacs are about women's participation in the political life of the country, and the articles are critical of everything from the disarmament program (they say only small weapons are being collected) to the real state of higher education. In a recent issue, the editors took on the government for closing schools during the Loya Jirga (an assembly of Afghans from all over the country who had gathered to draft a new constitution) and depriving students of classes. "We were called up in front of the minister of culture and information to explain ourselves," editor Shakeri Bakhshi says. "They accused us and judged us as if their office was a court." He knows the publishers at her peril. "Fundamentalists threaten to kill the name," she says. "We have to be careful about every

word we print because they'll use them against us." One lesson she learned is that the term "human rights" is not tolerable, but "women's rights" is best avoided.

In Shikandara, west of Kabul, women walk more than an hour from early morning to get to the human rights classes. More than 600 students have completed the four-day workshops since they started in May. "When the father of one student forbade his daughter to attend the class, the teacher, Qudus Majid, invited him to come and check it out for himself. "I wanted his daughter in my class, but I also knew he had a car and I hoped I could convince him to drive the others who'd had such a long distance to walk." She won on both counts and says, "If we don't teach the men, we'll never get through to the women."

These women know they are in the early stages of a revolution, and Hatan figures it will take three, six or 10 years. "You can't legislate change like this," she says. "It has to come from the people requesting it." In the meantime, women are joining the human rights card in the new constitution, the upcoming elections and judicial reforms. They may be litigating by the turmoil and conflict that has ravaged their country for decades, but this is one war these women don't mind fighting. ■



THE ALUMINUM CURTAIN

A revealing inside peek shows what makes a global company really tick

GLOBALISM during the 1990s became a major fault line in personal and institutional value systems. After Comenavest's collapse, the shocked shock troops of the international left struggled to find a new unifying cause to revive their campaigns against their three hated-free markets, the U.S. and Israel. They focused on globalism, which they labelled as capitalist imperialism in a new form—imposing poverty on the Third World and destroying the environment in its pursuit of greed. That the world's largest-scale environmental disasters had occurred under Communism, and that the Third World countries

where education, personal liberty and prosperity were expanding most consistently were in market-oriented economies were never discussed.

What do these allegedly evil global companies actually do and what do they think (assuming that a company can be said to think)? I had a chance to consider these questions as a guest speaker at the first off-site meeting for the board and top management of Alcoa Inc. of Montreal after its January takeover of Port-based Techintex SA, made it the world's biggest aluminum company. More than 100 people from around the world gathered in Phoenix to discuss how this "new, new Alcoa" should function in the global economy.

Alcoa's top management, now headed by former ITT Industries CEO Denis Fingar, has been installed in recent years. For decades, Alcoa was widely perceived as an unrelenting No. 1 to a better-managed Alcan. Its return on capital swung widely, as it struggled along with other companies during the 38-year-long decline of the basic metal industry. But now the good times have arrived.

Alcoa recently displaced Alcan as top organization's (BMO Northern Trust) top basic metal investment pick. The timely Techintex takeover is being managed smoothly. There is, apparently, as clash of corporate cultures. Fingar told the meeting that a survey of attitudes of management personnel at both organizations showed agreement on eight of 10 corporate values. According to consultants, there would have been a good score—and eight is almost unheard of.

What were this private gathering's big themes? Passion in personal performance, China, sustainable development and corporate governance. Charal Petteles, Canada's gold medal athlete in wheelchair racing, brought tears to the eyes of some listeners as she talked about passion to achieve. Alcan has long sponsored her, and she came to thank the company—and to energize the audience. She was a near-impossible act to follow.

China, the global driving force in the metals industry, was an obvious topic for this remarkable meeting. Alcan's director of industry analysis, Carmen Naggi, analyzed the aluminum operations in the world's fastest growing major economy. It was a well-received summary of a large range of

NGOs to work together to conserve and rehabilitate, save endangered species and put development on a sustainable basis. There is enough blame and praise to go around in the quest to balance nature, ideas and profits.

The corporate governance paper came from Arthur Lever, probably the world's most accomplished expert on that subject. Lever served for more than seven years (a record) as director of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, wrote the best-selling *Tale as the Street* and is probably best known to Canadians as the author of a recent grim report on the finances of the NHL. His Alcan paper, "From Enigma to Paradox: Rebuilding Investor Confidence in the Global Economy," was a model of penetrating analysis, grounded in barely controlled rage. Too many companies still don't understand that good governance is a pre-condition to long-term success, not just a fad. After reviewing the evils of evildoing, he switched to Alcan itself.

Lever had prepared himself by conducting a study of Alcan's accounting and governance practices. He gave them a blue ribbon, suggesting Alcan could be part of a "virtuous corporate race to the top" after years in which so many companies seemed to be trying to outdo each other in deceit and fraud. Lever said that widespread

progress is now occurring—partly through new laws and regulations, partly because of criminal prosecutions, and partly because of investor demands. After documenting some of the egregious sins in the U.S. markets, he said that, on balance, American investors were still the best protected in the world. Which means the rest of the world has a long way to go.

So how globalism: But globalism Alcan-style is on track.

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MARTIN'S WORDSMITH

Scott Feschuk is now the PM's speech writer. Is the country ready?

REMEMBER WHEN Kenny Reeves went to a Winnipeg theatre to play Hamlet? Or the Bond movie in which Denise Richards played a nuclear scientist? Or the time Melvin Griffith didn't play a hooker? Well, clear your memory banks to make room for this one: Scott Feschuk has been hired as Paul Martin's speech writer. When it comes to naming against type, the bar has been reset. Anthony Hopkins as Peter Pan would now inspire mere shrugs.

The National Post's resident humorist was beloved by readers for his idiosyncratic

clarity, pop cultural observations—and "Coach Boy" National Football League picks, in which he combined at tips about the follies of professional athletes with the shrewd analysis of a blind seer. Now he may have confounded bookies simply by pulling off the long shot of all time—an act of political speech writing for Paul Martin, he retired several places below Alan Gibbard. By placing stress on himself, Feschuk may well have wiped out the debt he incurred by picking Sheila Copps for the Lab and leadership.

Feschuk's forecasting skills clearly haven't improved. Climbing aboard HMB Paul Martin soon seems to be a cruise—sure of fate, say, joining the Howard Dean campaign because you really loved his enthusiasm in Iowa. The Prime Minister is busy fighting off trouble, pleading ignorance over the Quebec sponsorship scandal. Already Feschuk is rumored to have installed SpeechPerfect 6.0, the new state-of-the-art political speech-writing software, on his computer. SpeechPerfect makes it easy. Hitting the "Shift" key shifts Martin to the previous administration. Or hit "Ctrl-Alt-Insert" to the room when those decisions were made—and the computer spits out a complete list of every place your predecessor went more than Alton Crago.

It will be a tough job. But Feschuk has more credentials for his new gig than recent readers realize. Before leaving his self to the couch with a surgically unplugged remote, he was told as a political consultant and as the Globe and Mail's Hill reporter. In spite of Martin's recent troubles, hiring him as the new Prime Minister's speech writer was probably a savvy move. As a job

tasker, you want to look for employment situations where you can throw up drunk every day and still come off looking good compared to the last guy. Jon Chretien's speeches appeared to have been prepared by a combination of dyed-in-the wool monkeys. Feschuk will be steps ahead if he can avoid calling George W. Bush a post-nut peckered fool.

The Bush administration's anxiety toward Clinton was no secret. But it's puzzling that the American President would want Chretien gone—the little guy from Shawinigan was one of the few leaders on the international stage who could make Bush back

HE IS rumored to have installed SpeechPerfect 6.0. Hitting "Shift" shifts blame to the previous administration.

ward anticlimax by comparison. Bush and Chretien may have been the only two guys in the world who could have to each other in the White House. Paul Martin would seem a friendlier alternative for the President. But he may yet prove a disappointment. The new Prime Minister is unfortunately prone to complex sentences and cryptic arguments. He has yet to produce any public statement to rival the likes of Bush's, "I think we agree, the job is over," or his daily piece of economic theory "We have to make the pie bigger."

As Martin continues his belligerent policy of correct grammar, inarticulate sentiment may rise in the White House. An actual attempt might be tricky, but a CLA-

bedded coup is not out of the question. Bush's incoherent style could make U.S.-Canada relations even worse. You can sense the potential danger we now face with Feschuk putting words in our leader's mouth.

Speech writers need both power and responsibility, and that one looks ready. It was a lesson learned by a writer for Dolly's daddy, the original President Bush. After crafting a compassionate speech for Bush Sr., the writer underlined his point with a racist tirade: "Moooo! I can't!" Bush thought it was part of the speech and read it aloud to the audience. Feschuk is the kind of guy who would pull that kind of stunt on purpose.

Feschuk's TV-centric background—been presumably spent watching MTV and perusing lead-ins about Christina Aguilera—is bound to land his cow boss in trouble. Certainly the first time the Prime Minister greets our provincial problem with, "P'o'loose, my chiefto!" it might be applauded as both smart and charming. But when he follows up with the crack about Gordon Campbell's dining, Jon Chretien's Lufthansa Annie hair, and Dalton McGuinty's endoplastic shoes, the brawl will begin. First Ministers' conferences will require the kind of security not seen since before Ralph Klein quit drinking.

While politics grudge Feschuk's offer on Martin, media types will be analyzing the effects of his departure on the National Post. At worst, the Post can come off the well-known of readers' trust as a ragged newspaper. But Feschuk's presence there unclouded the paper's long-serving good writers. If you stop giving around the biased political and Middle East coverage, the intense editorial campaign against favorite targets (the CBC, the Globe and Mail, Gen. Gen. Adrienne Clarkson, the creation of George W. Bush and Brian Mulroney), and the occasional editorial broadside from a column of readers that has included Conrad Black, David Butler and the late Royce Agnew, you might find the hidden secret



of the National Post: it is frequently a much more entertaining read than our competition. Feschuk will follow Post writers such as Adam Smith, Greg Goss, and sports columnist Colin Coles and conservative pundit Andrew Coyne inside picking up the National Post's worthwhile segments of your political story.

Unfortunately, Feschuk's love of absence from the Post underpins another sad story for that paper—the gradual departure of many of its star columnists. It's hard to say many people that pretty soon Post editors stop and up paying Rebecca Eckler to get preg-

nant again. Or at least break a bad while having one—that ought to be good for a few columns.)

Chris Blachford and Ray MacGregor crossed the street to their hated rival, Paul Wells to the back page of that very publication, and the occasionally loopy but usually entertaining right-wing humorist Mark Steyn appears to have simply disappeared from the Post's pages. (Perhaps he has been hired as Jack Layton's speech writer. Nothing would be surprising now.) With Feschuk gone, the Post might be a little short of humor. Of course, it'll probably keep lectur-

ing the CBC about political bias—that's always good for a laugh.

So now Feschuk will be penning Paul's letters to the Constitution—or rather, speeches to Canadians. When he signed up for the job, Feschuk must have thought he'd be working for the new Liberal majority. Unfortunately, thanks to the left-wing scandals from the Jean Chretien era, Feschuk's speeches may end up sounding more like the Biblical Peter than Paul. "I tell you, I never knew him!"

Steve Burgess is a Vancouver writer and frequent contributor to *Macleans*.

'THIS IS A DANGEROUS THEATRE'

A senior Canadian soldier, seconded to the U.S. army, discusses serving in Iraq

OTTAWA'S decision not to join George W. Bush's coalition of the willing in the U.S.-led war in Iraq last March has led to strained relations with Washington. That's despite Canada's contribution to the war on terror: the 2,000 troops in Afghanistan, the largest contingent of the 3,000-strong, NATO-led International Security Assistance Force based in Kabul. And, as it turns out, Canadians have served in Iraq—while on exchange programs with American and British forces. That's currently the case with Brig. Gen. Walter Nатыныч, a 38-year veteran of the armed forces who is the most senior of the dozens of Canadians deployed in Iraq to date. Since July 2002, Nатыныч, accompanied by his wife and one of his three children, had been seconded to the U.S. army's III Corps in Fort Hood, Texas. (The couple's other son is attending school in Canada.) While in Texas, the Winnipeg native, an armour expert whose regiment is the Royal Canadian Dragoons, served as deputy commander. When III Corps began shipping out on Iraq in January, Nатыныч, 46, was part of the troop rotation. He is now based in one of Saddam Hussein's former gaudy desert palaces in Baghdad, where he is the coalition's deputy chief of policy, strategy and planning, helping direct the movement of U.S., British and Australian troops. Nатыныч spoke with Maclean's correspondent Scott Taylor in Baghdad about the U.S. army, the conflict in Iraq and the role he is playing.

One of your duties as deputy commander of III Corps was training. Pre-deployment, how much time was spent on the lessons learned on the ground here?

Quite a lot. It was a really novel approach where the senior leaders flew to Jordan to the Jordanian Peace-keeping Institute, land of alain to the Phoenix Centre in Nova Scotia. We participated in cultural awareness and stability operations lessons.

The newly arrived soldiers have watched the news and know that Alvin Karpis are not being



greeted as liberators. Mentally, how do you train them coming in here?

I think that the American soldiers really well trained. Their ability to turn over lessons learned from Afghanistan, Bosnia and Kosovo and other theatres and put them into their techniques and procedures is very impressive. I'm also impressed to see the number of people who have combat patches, so they are ready for the low intensity fight, they are ready for the high intensity fight. The American army has also gone to the U.K. army to learn as many lessons as possible from them. There's a lot of sharing of all kinds of experiences.

The problem is that this is an unconventional war being fought by conventional fighters. I applied the leadership for trying to give those young soldiers as much depth and breadth of experience as they have.

The U.S. is consolidating a number of bases in Baghdad, reducing the footprint of the American military. Is that for military or political reasons?

All I can say is that it's really important that we grow the Iraqi security forces, whether they are police, civil defence or the new Iraqi army. We've gone through a lot of training with these people, but as soon as you've

got to back away. In the end, the issue is handing sovereignty back to the Iraqis and allowing those rotating security forces to take the helm.

But without the body armour, the heavy weapons, they're considered soft targets. This is a dangerous theatre, isn't it?

When it was announced in November that you would be here, opposition parties in Ottawa objected, questioning how Canada could support the war yet deploy a senior officer. How do you feel about that?

I take orders from the Canadian government. The Canadian government sent me to Fort Hood, bottom left, to show me a tangible way the close alliance between the U.S. and Canada. The Canadian government approved my deployment, so from my perspective there was no controversy. The instruction to me was clear—"move out"—and as a soldier I complied.

Still, you have to operate under something of a dual command. Does that make it difficult to function here?

I answer to the [Canadian] deputy chief of defence staff and through him to the chief of defence staff. Whether I'm here or in Bosnia, Afghanistan or wherever, he maintains full national command of me. In this environment, I'm under the operational control of the III Corps commander. At the end of the day, there's a hierarchy of command. But I've been given pretty clear guidance to soldier on.

Personally, do you feel the intervention was justified?

That's way above my pay grade to speculate. But I am incredibly impressed by this country and its potential for the future. What I can say is that I believe we're making a contribution. There's a heck of a lot of people who will have a better life and a better future because of what we're doing here today. □

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PRETEEN TEMPTRESSES

Fashion is abandoning the vixen; with luck our daughters will too

YOU WILL be glad to learn that a backlash is spreading in the fashion industry against already-repudiated clothes. The runway-slept look—obviously adopted by 13-year-old girls everywhere, much to their parents' dismay—is suddenly not for. The spring fashions show this year feature blouses that are actually buttoned up, hem shortening, and skirts that are longer than the wearer's underpants. Some even hang to the knees.

Anyhoo, the editor of *Teen* magazine, trumpets that new look in the March issue of her magazine: "Are you sick of watching nearly naked girls prancing next to fully dressed

gays on MTV?" she asks in a letter from the editor. "Of music stars and singers dressed as if they mean to stay in the limelight? Me, too! The room look has become so mainstream that it's passé!"

Ironically, given the production cycle of magazines, *Teen* would have written this letter before Janet Jackson got into such trouble for her flashing antics at the Super Bowl. This hints at why Jackson and Justin Timberlake fell foul—everyone was already getting sick of us. Mind you, as far as I was concerned the problem wasn't that the room look was too trendily mainstream to me, it was that such garb was a tawdery throwback to a time when women got jobs if they had big bosoms. But another way, I have never looked at Pamela Anderson and thought, "Wow! What a sly move!" On the other hand, I like tried to please only by anyone would wear their principal accomplishment in that they'd called the entire world's attention to their breasts.

There is something especially sinister about the rise of unions of younger celebrities like Christina Aguilera and Britney Spears, given that their supposed vocation is to sing, rather than to sing. And what's going on with their pseudo-Islamic kooking and their hyper-sexual dance moves? Are they rebelling against sexual freedom after years of oppression? No. That happened several decades ago. Are they celebrating their fashion freedom after years of loose-binding and censorship? No. Try the century before last. And somebody make their brain with flourish fly!

The social revolution has politics to it, whether you agreed with them or not. But these politics were played out. The state-



What's with Spears' hyper-sexual streak?

ments were made. By the time we got to The Virginia Minstrelsy, when an audience member was asked questions like, "If your engine was a celebrity, who would it be?" the revolution had run out of steam.

The interest of the vixen look isn't post-feminist. They're a weird, disorienting combination of pre-feminist/post-sexual revolution. They have no idea what to do with freely displayed sexuality beyond getting the attention of boys. And the deeply elastic part is, they are saying as role models for our daughters. Every now and then, my seven-year-old brings up Britney, and I act like I've been poked with a hotstick. "I think Britney Spears is good," my daughter might say, and I retort, "She's not good, she's not good. There's nothing between her ears but machinery and air!" I feel like a mean mom for these wailing off about Elvis.

If *Teen* magazine tells us readers they will

look cool in preppy-style dresses and belted corsets, that sounds good to me. A more dressy trend would certainly have anguished the costumes I saw in my daughter's elementary school talent show in Toronto a few weeks ago. Up on the stage, in a gymnasium packed with proud parents, were children in halter tops and hip-flapping jeans, in groups of two and threes, lip-synching to pop songs. These kids pretending to be music celebrities were interspersed with more conventional, and vastly more age-appropriate, acts performed by earnest little violinists and poets and cap dancers, their ponytails bouncing in their soft-shod in black patent leather. It was as if there were a generation gap playing out right there on the stage, split down the middle of one year group.

The casualization of social interaction, so recently adopted by these children, is leading them straight into a trend that has its fixed influences of late, that of 13-year-old girls going out as boys, and then being gay or off as no big deal. A newspaper article denied the phenomenon in middle schools, where so-called tweens, between 12 and 14, have somehow decided that it's cool, and risk-free, to offer sexual service to boys. As I write this column, I note that several middle schools in Pensacola, Fla., have just been suspended: a staff member snubbed across the two girls and five boys having oral sex in the school bathroom.

Five years ago, the PBS program *Front Line* aired a documentary in which an outbreak of syphilis was traced by puzzled public health officials to a group of middle schoolers in suburban Atlanta. The girls who had contracted this vile STD were interviewed as they sat on their filthy beds, still covered with white latex intravenous drips. That participation says it all. Thanks to fashion and pop culture, we have colonized childhood, corrupted children. We need to see them free.

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HOCKEY WITH A FRESH FACE

An influx of girls is giving the game a badly needed lift, CHARLIE GILLIS reports

THEY MIGHT be hell on ice. But in the drabgy precincts of their suburban dressing room, and in the upstairs gym where they lumber up for games, the Notre Dame Hounds admit one weakness. "Overconfidence," says Chantel Morrison, a 16-year-old defenseman with the elite girls' midget hockey team. She pushes back a strand of hair and sears herself on a bench in the exercise room, worrying the tape on her hockey stick with a stump of wax.

It's 30 minutes until game time, and the Hounds are entrenched in ritual—stretching, skipping, knocking about white balls with their sticks. "We're always playing to the other team's level," Morrison confesses, winking as she speaks. "Even when we play a crappy team, we'll win 4-1 when it should be, like, 20-0."



Adult Murray College of Notre Dame in Wilkes, Sask., a half-hour south of Regina, has long held its hockey players to a high standard. Founded by a sports-mad priest on the empty prairie 77 years ago, the high school is a well-known hotbed of male hockey talent, and the girls are a rising commodity to the league. Since it first took to the ice in 1991, the midget team here has won seven provincial girls' titles and three western Canadian championships. Of their 28 games this season, Morrison and company have lost just three.

But tonight's visitors, the Regina Cougars, aren't about to roll over. Buoyed by solid goaltending and a few timely bounces, they rally from a 1-0 deficit to tie Notre Dame on a goal-mouth scramble halfway through the first period. Five minutes later, they've taken the lead, and when the Hounds return to their bench at intermission, coach Eric Lodowski issues blunt warning: the competition has improved, he tells his players. "We're letting them stay in the game by not playing up to our ability. We're giving them hope."

The Hounds versus the Cougars; players head home after a game in Cudworth (left)

BY DIRT of sheer numbers, the competition is going to keep improving—for the Hounds and everyone else in girls' hockey. In the 2002-03 season, it reached 61,000 females registered in the sport across Canada, almost 2,000 more than the season before and a near fivefold increase from a decade

LAST season, a record 61,000 females registered in hockey across Canada, a near fivefold increase from 10 years before.

before. Without practically any arms and you can see the evidence: a waiting list for the female league in Cornwall, Ont., runs six years at a girls' hockey school in B.C.'s Okanagan Valley; heavy demand for female coaches and referees from St. John's to Victoria. And in hockey's rural heartlands—the

Prerives, the Maritimes, small-town Quebec—former boys-only teams are now happily lifting out their men's kids who once might have sat giggling in the stands. So much for sugar and spice.

It's happening, certainly enough, during a period of stagnant growth in male major hockey—a rancorous, acrimonious, of high equipment costs and the shifting interests of Canadian boys. For the past five years, Hockey Canada's count of males registered in hockey has hovered around 475,000, while boys have poured into other sports such as soccer. "The truth? Girls are now the main engine of growth in the national game, and a critical source of the fees that keep its arenas open. Gone are the days when 'indecisiveness' meant a few ponytails in your major hockey association's annual slide show. "It's just excellent," says Pam Ritter, executive director of the Ontario Women's Hockey Association. "The positive value of the game, the intelligence level the players show—I think all those things are being recognized now by the sporting public." It matters also don't concern respect,



the unopposed play of women should. Ever since girls began flooding into hockey in the early 1990s—craving it, then inspired by national team stars like Miriam Bédard and Nancy Dwyer—female hockey has been a sport wrapped in euphemisms. Developing. Difficult. Unique. It connotes a steeped lot of minor hockey executives from saying being, they must have been thinking it as they noted out practice time and devoted where to spend their development dollars. “I know there are some places in Canada where it’s still a challenge for women’s teams to get on time,” says Danielle Sawagawa, the coach of the Canadian women’s team that won gold at the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City. “Especially the good ice time.”

But now, as the first generation of female players truly raised on hockey skates reach or just prime playing years, those same or genders are getting a taste of how good the women’s game can be. “It’s a skill game, where the skilled player will do very well no matter how big or small she is,” says Lisa Lawson, coach of the women’s varsity team

at Montreal’s Concordia University. “You don’t always get that on the men’s side.”

Lawson, who has coached at the university level for 22 years, credits long-standing role differences for the distinct evolution of female hockey. Aware that violence might discourage girls from picking up, provincial

“I JUST like fast sports,” says a player who started out in figure skating. “As long as there’s a team for me, I’ll keep playing.”

branches agreed in the early 1990s to ban all out bodychecking and, later, outlawed so-called two-line passing through the neutral zone. The result, he says, was a game that rewarded speed and positioning rather than size and strength. Then there was the feminine factor—an on-ice generosity which,

deny it as they might, girls demonstrate more than boys. “They want everybody on the ice to succeed,” says Phil Kline, a father of three hockey-playing girls from Brantford, Ont., who coaches his daughters’ team up to them. “I think it’s somewhat in their nature. They look more at the team concept, and that’s just nicer to coach.”

SO ARE GIRLS reclaiming the game to its actual form? Or does hockey actually revert to its rural, pond-ice roots when there’s no fighting allowed, and no NHL contract at the end of the season? The questions seem like good ones on a winter’s night in Cadzow, Sask., a farming town northeast of Saskatoon, where families are arriving by the pickup load for a four-team midsize girls’ tournament. The snow is cold; it squeals beneath your boots. But it’s warm in the foyer of Cadzow’s pine-plant rooms, where Michelle DiDomenico watches over a steering cup of coffee as her two daughters play for the home side. “I had both girls in figure skating at one point,” says the 34-year-old mother, who has organized the event. “But

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THIS DOMINANCE THING IS GETTING OLD

Reminders make for great storylines—just ask the producers of *Rocky*. But would it be wrong to hope for a surprise ending in this year's women's world hockey championship? Here, the country's ongoing rivalry with the United States in female hockey has produced some splendid fights and, alas, Canada's crumpling loss to the Americans at the Nagano Winter Games in 1998 and meniscus-and-gold medal win over the U.S. (and the referee) in 2002 in Salt Lake City both springs to mind. But it seems neither fair nor healthy for the future of the sport that the same two countries are once again heavily favored to meet in the final at the world, which begins March 30 in Halifax and Dartmouth.

In the seven world tournaments held since 1996, Canada and the U.S. have appeared in every gold medal game (Canada has won all seven, and has never lost a game at the event). Which may explain the absence of dithering about an earlier site of the border as the 2004 championship approaches. Truth is, after years of mano à mano, even the most belated feuds can grow stale. (Lethi versus Habs just doesn't cut it any more. The Habs-fuels and McGee now settle their differences as a softball dividend. Even Backy took on new challenges, and one of them—that big blond guy—was actually from another country.

So you can forgive long time observers of



Wickenheiser: Myron Hudd's goal (and the referee) in 2002 in Salt Lake City both springs to mind.

"It's a two-team race for the world championship every year."

Of course, no one wishes the home life if anything, there will be record support in Halifax for star forward Habs/Wickies or another rest of the Canadians, but no would it be a sin to hope Canada or the U.S. falls to one of the seven other countries represented in Halifax—China, Finland, Germany, Japan, Russia, Sweden and Switzerland. In the meantime, fans may be well advised to tune into the Gino Women's Hockey, starting next week in Sherwood Park, outside of Edmonton. The games are intimate, the on-site talent is almost as good as at the world championships, the games are evenly balanced and—for the three beings, at least—the result is by no means a foregone conclusion. Ed.

it wasn't exciting enough for them."

Tonight, Ashlie Diederichs, 15, and her 14-year-old sister, Jodie, don't face so well. They lose their last game of the day to a team from nearby Shelburne. Yet they emerge from the dressing room looking fit from within, happy just to have played Ashlie. Mend and push cheered, admits that she's hockey—as a university or high-performance team—may be out of her reach. But that's not why she's here. "I just love the sport," she shrugs, plunking herself at a folding wooden table in the foyer. She was drawn to the game after watching local boys stare in league games. Now she can't imagine ever quitting. "As long as there's a team for me," she says, "I'll keep playing."

Not far behind Ashlie's her coach, Myron Hudd, a former boys' instructor who returned to the bench with his youngest daughter took up hockey five years ago, and is enjoying the game now more than ever. "There's not enough pressure," he says, on slipping his palms. "With the girls, you don't come into the dressing room yelling and kicking the garbage out. They just wouldn't respond." Of course, running a league has been a learning experience for him as well. Larger two Cadwath's boys teams recently folded because players left for more elite squads. But Hudd's approach leads him to do everything to keep the game alive, picking up kids who can't get rides, encouraging younger girls to make up hockey. "This has really brought our community together," he says.

A good thing, too, because you can draw a direct line from players like Cadwath to the Canadian national women's team, an international event like this month's world championship in Halifax. Habs/Wickies—arguably the world's best female players—learned to skate on backyard rinks in Shawmut, Mass., standing with the game despite her father's death that a hold in her. Most of Habs/Diederichs' players took similar routes, fine playing with brothers and friends, then looking up with elite girls' teams when the option became available. Now they appear in the Olympics on, taking that, U.S. colleges where they can go on scholarships. "You look up to the national women's team," says Brooke Sawano, a 27-year-old forward from Menden, Mass. "You want to be there."

But if the female game is going to keep expanding, girls need more such opportunities, says Nancy Wozniak, who runs the



First to playing the Shelburne Blues, the Cadwath Stars get first practice from their coach

Canoe Ice Female Hockey School in Sumnerfield, B.C. "If a star player who's 13 or 14 has a dream of playing on the national team, where does she go where she's going to be challenged? We have to give girls every opportunity to try out for a team at the provincial or regional level." Wilson credits Hockey Canada and its provincial branches for creating girls-only initiatives, ranging from skill days to coaching clinics to an under-22 program, which grows talented players for national team play that she and other critics believe there's much more work to be done.

Sawano, who's no longer the national team coach but remains a vocal advocate for women's hockey, is calling for a permanent under-18 program as well as girls only centers of excellence at first basement across the country. These hubs, she says, could serve as training centers for female coaches and referees, and as launch pads for players in an elite league (such as none exist, the current National Women's Hockey League has spread the talent too thinly, according to Sawano). "I believe Hockey Canada needs to take the lead," she says. "Four or five years down the road, it could tell the teams they have to survive on their own."

For now, the agency appears focused on training coaches and officials. Sharen Dorevich, Hockey Canada's manager of domestic female development programs, notes that only four of Canada's 1,100 so far female referees are qualified to officiate at the world championships in Halifax. And while the

governing body does hold a national under-18 tournament every four years, the cost of separate centers of excellence for girls would be difficult to justify, she says. That's not to say governing bodies are neglecting the female game. "You do see the branches buying into the programs and starting new programs for girls," Dorevich argues. "They're putting money into this because they realize it's not going away."

THE SAME could be said for the peppy Regina Cougars. After surrendering their last win in 2002, they held off a Hawks' onslaught through most of the third. It's hockey at its best, with quickpassing and long-range shots for the 200 new spectators gathered in the arena. Finally, with 11 seconds left, Nate Dine right winger Kari-Ann Swan takes a loose puck in Regina territory, then her way past a defender and in the blink of an eye takes a wrist shot to work her magic—rocks a wrist shot for the 3-2 win. Looked over person himself a small smile on the very off the ice. But down in the dressing room, he's all business. "OK, we won and that's fine," he tells the players in dry understatement. "But we're in a key part of the season, and we can't afford not to play at the top of our game." It's a fitting theme for the female game in general. Victory sweet and the future may look bright. The challenge now is to build on success. □

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MACLEAN'S



SAVING THE KIDS

A Nova Scotia nurse rescued 5,000 children in Turkey

HIDDEN AWAY is the achievement of Nova Scotia's Yarmouth County Museum is a collection of photographs featuring Armenian lives. One, taken early in the 1930s, shows children arranged on a hillside, their bodies spelling out "U Canvithin 1, 8-11." The thread connecting the Nova Scotian past, Armenia and the biblical passage is Ben Corming, born in Chignecto, eight kilometres north of Yarmouth. Her role in the heroic effort to rescue 5,000 Armenians, as well as some Greek orphans from a slaughter in the Turkish city of Smyrna (now Izmir) in 1922, won her posthumous recognition from the king of Greece. But with the exception of the museum staff and a few family members, Corming's exploits are largely unknown.

Born in 1872, Corming trained as a nurse in the United States. She joined the U.S. Red Cross during the First World War and subsequently signed on with the New Era Relief, a U.S. ethnic life foundation established to assist the displaced populations of the Balkans, Asia Minor and the Middle East. In 1921, Corming arrived in a small village at the foot of Mount Ararat in Turkey to take charge of an orphanage. Years of civil strife and ethnic turmoil—in which the Turks had driven the Armenians from their homeland—had left hundreds of thousands without homes and belongings. Nearly a million had died since 1915 as the Turks took revenge on the Armenians for allegedly helping the Russians during the First World War.

Corming set about her work with quiet determination, according to a distant cousin, Mary Anne Saunders, now in her 70s. Saunders, who lives in Yarmouth, recalls that as a young girl she found Corming formidable. "Her composure," she says, "was offset by a no nonsense approach"—a balance that



A formidable figure whose 'composure' was offset by a no-nonsense approach

allowed Corming to stand alone in desperate need, all the while in the shadow of danger. Armenia was not the only country with which the Turks had a long-standing conflict. Historic tensions between Turkey and Greece increased in 1919 when the Greeks captured Smyrna, declaring that because the port city had a significant Greek population, it should be annexed. In the summer of 1922, the Turks won on the offensive and named the road against their invaders.

"THEN they began to burn the city down. Many refugees [jumped into the water and] drowned rather than be burned."

By early September, they were poised to invade the town, and in large Greek population—along with Armenian refugees who had been fleeing the Turks—was incapable of defending itself. Corming headed an American destroyer in Constantinople (now Istanbul) and headed for Smyrna. Once ashore, she and two others opened a clinic to tend to the injured and wounded. Turkish soldiers, now in control of the city, closed it down and told the sheltered women to move on. Their second clinic was a mile farther. This time the Turkish soldiers advised the women to leave, or risk their lives. "After that, the city was looted, then they began to burn it down," Corming wrote years later in her high-school alumni newsletter. "Many refugees [jumped into the water and] drowned rather than be burned."

In the midst of the mayhem, Corming made her way to an orphanage run by an American nurse, and was amazed to find everyone safe—though she knew that could change at any moment. Guiding small groups of children (most were under 12 years old, and almost all were female) through the turmoil and the dangers in the burning city, Corming delivered them to the harbour, where American sailors rowed them out to waiting destroyers. No record remains of the time required to evacuate the orphans, but when the operation was complete, more than 5,000 children had been rescued.

Corming travelled with the children to Greece, where she established an orphanage for those who were ill, famine and disease had not only deprived of parents, but of a country. It was there that Corming arranged the children to spell out the biblical reference that means, in part, "For we would not have you regret of our trouble which came to us in Asia. But we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, mourning that we are departed even of life."

Summertime Corming to Athens in June 1923. King George VI of Greece awarded her the Silver Cross Medal of the Order of the Saviour, an honour comparable to the Order of Canada. Corming worked at the orphanage until 1924, when she returned to Turkey to work in a medical training school. Upon retirement, she returned to Chignecto, where she lived in the home in which she had been raised, until her death in 1969 at age 97. The orphanage on her headstone "She lived to serve others."

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WATCH WHAT YOU SAY

Strange things can happen when you use a word no one else knows

THE PLACE: Anchorage, a great jumping-off place for Alaska's great outdoors.

The time: November 2003, when the Internet was still in its infancy.

The title: the day's visit to a rural site: a two-hour plane ride outside the city.

So far as technology and marketing ingenuity representing a Canadian company that operates rural sites in Canada's Arctic. The other 20 are Americans from the contiguous states, the lower 48, warmer places in general. We may be in their country, but we feel right at

home. Snowy? You bet? Cold? The local glory is how cold it can get. This, a Canadian can understand.

Our guys wear bulky Arctic suits at the site and on the plane—a military Hercules aircraft, adapted to carry passengers in the coldest so severe it can only be international. Most of the Americans are wearing parkas with fur-lined hoods. Quilted wind pants. Moon boots. Huge mitts. They look silly, but enough they know what "cold" means.

But one of the Americans, unbelievably, turned up for the flight in business wear, smart shoes and hooded parkas under trench coats. Geometric inflexible to death if the helicopter goes down, unable even to get off the plane at the site.

Fast forward two months to a meeting at my employer's corporate headquarters in Alberta. Still waiting to hear whether we've won the contract, every one is fussed on Alaska. I reassure a vice president that our competitors don't understand the job requirements. I describe the site: two men, smart shoes and bunny hags under trench coats. The room goes silent. People are looking at me. Oddly, not admiringly. Oh dear, not again.

The vice president asks, "What were they wearing?" I repeat it, wondering what the problem is. He looks at me, helplessly, looks around the table, helplessly.

Someone recalls: "Was 'bunny hags'?" he asks. But this person, as I remind him, was on the site next. "I remember the guys," he says, "but I've never even heard of a bunny hag."

It turns out that no one in the room has

either. What I describe is a hooded parka or sweatshirt with a pouch for your hands—they know what it is and they have a different name for it—a kangaroo jacket. They agree on that. They agree on something else too, but are too polite to say much. I save the meaning with something other than Alaska on my mind.

The next day, I connect the office. No one has heard of a bunny hag. Maybe it's a family thing. That evening, I call my siblings and parents, now living from Vancouver to Cleveland. Nope. This is getting worse.



Time to regroup. I could believe that I've stepped into a parallel universe, one in which bunny hag is unknown but little else is changed, and that's why, if true madness, then pointless idiocy. I could stop using bunny hag in public company, but I know this word. I really do. Why?

I start a new woman, a dead-end carpenter's apprentice at a service job is safe. "Do you know what a bunny hag is?" I enquire offhandedly of five dead women, one dies and goes pukey over the next few days, but with no luck. The parallel universe scenario is gaining ground. I am close to giving up

And so it is that my subconscious is able to make itself heard. One day, out of nowhere, "Berd wore bunny hags." Berd—a friend of my sons in Saskatoon. I have a clear mind's eye visual of him riding up to our house and wandering in, wearing a bunny hag with striped cuffs.

I call my sons. "Do you know what a bunny hag is?" I ask, trying for a casual tone, not wanting to reveal how devastating it will be if they don't know the word. What, then, of my memory will I be able to trust?

"Oh, yeah," say the younger one, "but they call them kangaroo jackets here." (News days he'd probably say "hoodie.") Something in me releases. The call to the older one confirms that he, too, knows bunny hag. I find better, but not yet sure. What if my sons learned bunny hag from me, rather than the other way around? I need another Saskatoonian source. I call a fellow in our Ottawa office who grew up in Kimberley, studied in Saskatoon and worked in Regina.

"Do you know what a bunny hag is?" "Sure, a kangaroo jacket. But it's a Saskatoonian thing. Do you know what a slash is?" "Yeah, a wood splitter."

We hang up, having connected at a place beyond words. Fast forward again. It's been months since I've asked anyone about bunny hags. But today I ask the phone

resident if he knows what it is—and he does. "Where are you from?" I ask. "Cold Lake," he replies.

Ah, right on the Alberta/Saskatchewan border. I can use a research project asking shape. Mapping the usage boundaries of bunny hag. Tracking its dispersal through time and space to destruction. I take my prescription and leave quietly. Believe it or not, quiting while you're ahead, but maybe that was in a parallel universe.

Isabel Bisson uses terms bunny hags in Ottawa. The cartoonist, David Rowland, is in Montreal.

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Media and Community Relations



Received 11 April 2002; accepted 11 July 2002



Hardware | When you have a need for speed

Rahul and Ravi Soori look closely at their latest creation, the M790 Eery Rahul, 31, the tech guru, in white and wavy glasses, while 33-year-old Ravi is a more well-dressed businessman who stands a few inches taller than his brother. Together they run Calgary-based VoodooPC (www.voodoopc.ca) and built/sold out computers for serious game aficionados. The M790's specs tell the story: "It's got a 3.4-inch display," says Rahul, "two hard drives, a 3.4-gigahertz Intel processor, a 136 megapixel graphics card, an embedded video camera and a gigabyte of memory." If the M790 was a car, Jacques Villeneuve would buckle up. "It's insane," adds Ravi. "I don't know how else to put it. It's stacked."

Rahul launched VoodooPC in 1991, and designed Web sites, sold hardware and developed software until the dot-com burst threatened the business. Seeing a bright future in computer gaming, he switched focus and moved Ravi into the fold in 1999. VoodooPC has since become one of the world's leading developers of high-end machines. "We wanted to build the most powerful

Calgary-based firm builds ultra-powerful computers for the serious gamer out

crisis system around," says Ravi. But speed and power don't come cheap—the M790 starts at \$4,000.

A big part of that success is staying one step ahead of the competition. The Sooris developed the first computer that cools its internal components by a process called liquid chilling, which circulates distilled water over the processor and graphics card. And all the company's profits each year are reinvested in research and development. Dell, Gateway and Hewlett-Packard also produce supercharged computers, but VoodooPC's clients swear they whip them all in head-to-head tests. (Blackmagic? Nope, but maybe a little voodoo.)

Games | If you want to be Jet Li

Like Jet Li? You'll want to be Jet Li. Jet Li is a Hong Kong action movie superstar who's won seven Jet Li action films. A top cop who battles "China's most vicious underworld," and the movie's cyber technology perfectly reproduces Jet Li's signature in real life.



Web | Photo swap

Looking for something fun to do with all the digital photographs stored on your hard drive? Try SmartMesh, a free program available at www.smartmesh.com. Simply click on the SmartMesh logo, which lets you combine and swap info online. The program is a bit tricky and it

takes time and patience to learn the ins and outs. But once mastered, it's relatively simple. Click on specific areas of one photo, such as a face and ears, then mark corresponding points on the second photo. Press the magic button, and poof, that nose ends the dog



Software | My tunes

Love music but can't play an instrument? No worries. Garageband, part of Apple's easy-to-use iLife suite of digital media software, can do the trick. Making for you, it lets you have a relatively powerful Macintosh computer, Garageband—dubbed a "recording studio in a box"—lets you stitch together more than 1,000 unique sound clips recorded from 30 different real-world instruments. The music screen looks like a grid of horizontal bars

and users simply drag and drop the musical notes, strings or keyboard building blocks into the slots. The best, as they're called, can last for a brief second or keep the beat for the entire track.

If you happen to be a talented musician, connect your guitar keyboard to the computer and record straight into Garageband. (You just add the rhythm section from the program's database of sounds and the rest your Canadian talent provides—along with your own top-notch voice.)

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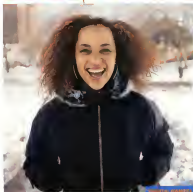
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CANADIAN BUSINESS



John Intini starts a sentence ... Namugenyi Kiwanuka finishes it

Namugenyi Kiwanuka is doubted by the guards in the NSA, but there's a simple trick to spotting her at court-side. Look for her hair. The former *MacMaze* (V) — best known for her big 'do — has been a fixture at NSA games since becoming the co-host of Sportsnet's *MAJAZZ*. The 27-year-old, known as "Nees" to friends and fans, has come a long way from her childhood in western Uganda (she formerly moved to London, Ont., when she was eight). Kiwanuka, now based in Toronto, recently finished Maclean's Assistant Editor John Intini's sentences.

HANDING OUT WITH THE BIG BOYS ... gets interesting in the locker room. It's hard to know where to look. One player even asked during an interview how to look somewhere else. I went not quite fast.

SPENDING TOO MUCH TIME ... watching *Law & Order*. It's tough not to watch since there are four different versions of the show.

THE SCARIEST PART OF LIFE IN UGANDA ... was being separated from my family — which happened a lot — and thinking it was *Me! Be the last*

time I'd see them.

THE STRANGEST THING I CARRY IN MY WILLET is ... my comb. People think I don't own any hair, but I do. It's a red pick. It helps with all the locks.

ELECTRIC CIRCUS ... was a show I loved when we first started. It was about the music. But the last few years — even when I hosted — it became a bunch of young girls in little raps.

MY BEST MOVE WITH THE BALL ... it's always I was subbing guard and kid, but stopped growing. I can still shoot from anywhere, but my defense is horrible.

GROWING UP ... I worked at Wendy's and loved it. I went for breakfast, lunch and dinner. I'd still pick Wendy's over an expensive restaurant any day. I'm a cheap date.

FOR MORE "FINISH THE SENTENCES," VISIT WWW.MACLEANS.CA/PSQLE

Books | The manic man behind the music

At the beginning of his new autobiography, *Knowledge of the Moon* (Random House), former CBS Records head Walter Irlbach sums up his story thus: "Act 1, start to get crazy. Act 2, I get crazier. Act 3, evident to all." It's an account that includes the story of a battleship-length odyssey through the rocks at CBS to become president in 1975 and spent the next 18 years plotting the company and working with the likes of Steven Seagal, Michael Jackson, Barbra Streisand, Billy Joel and Bruce Springsteen — all the while partying like there was no tomorrow. Irlbach chronicles his controversial successes, heavy drinking and hoovering of vast quantities of cocaine, as well as the shoddiness that went with his job. But this is no confessional and self-flagellate memoir; he concedes the risks earlier on until it was too late.



Best Sellers

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NOTE TO PM: DELAY IS BAD

We may not want a spring vote, but Paul Martin has his own reasons

OF COURSE Paul Martin would like an election sooner rather than later. Elections, by definition, are all about the future. Wouldn't you want to escape the present too, if you were him?

Every day gives Canadians a chance to reassess more precisely the distance between the way Martin used to talk about governing and the way he governs. That's why we want more time to pass before an election. It's why Martin wants to take time to pass as possible

Measuring the gap between talk and action is useful for us and dangerous for him.

In some ways, of course, the distance between talk and action is now so it can be said that Martin is often as good as his word. It has set up a serious inquiry into the sponsorship scandal in Quebec. Justice John Gomery, the commission chairman, issued no one's appointment Bernard Ray, a former chief of staff to Brian Mulroney, as lead counsel. The inquiry can't be called a delaying tactic when Gomery moves so briskly. It can't be dismissed as a Liberal whitewash when Gomery hires Ray, a well-regarded figure in legal circles who was, among other things, best man at Mulroney's wedding.

In his day-to-day management style, Martin has set his own pace. Ministers who've sat around the cabinet table with Martin and Jean Charest tell me the newsgroups are more relaxed, curious, eager to listen to everyone, and cooperative with ministers who simply read their prepared briefing notes. Martin has also made good on his past promises to get out of Parliament and into the countryside, especially the bits at the western end of the map.

But all is not rosy. In his relations with Parliament, the provinces and the world, Martin has found it easier to talk a good game than to deliver.

Parliamentary reform? Mixed results at best. Jacques Stedje, the Liberals' House leader, brought in an ambitious parliamentary reform package. Then the Liberals reintroduced a bunch of Chretien-era



legislation and cut short the time for debate at the Commons. Then they cut short the Senate debate over changes to the electoral map.

Why the rush? It's not, after all, as though the Martin government has gone hanging piles of bills that need passing. "It's a really thin trickle of legislation," a veteran Liberal staffer told me last week. "So far, almost all of them are Chretien bills Martin has reintroduced. Maybe there'll be more new bills in March."

A renaissance in federal-provincial relations? "I think this is the 18th federal-provincial ministers' meeting that I've been to," Mitchell Murphy, the finance minister of Prince Edward Island, said the other day as he left a meeting with Martin's man Ralph Goodale. "And I don't think I've been to one where we've had a less desirable outcome."

What's the problem? Same as ever: there is more demand for federal dollars than

there are federal dollars. This has annoyed precisely one Canadian, Paul Martin.

In international relations, too, the attention is taking a while to get started. In November, Martin asked John Masley to be his ambassador to Washington, one of the most important, "if not the most important post that one can offer under my administration," Masley said at the time. Three months later, Martin hasn't named another candidate. Seniors or how somebody will notice.

Foreign aid? Don't the rock star threatened to be the "biggest priority in my life" if he sensed any delay in increasing aid to Africa. Martin, no fool, would much sooner face the electorate than be confronted by an angry Bono.

Delay can bring only more trouble. There are already five vacant Senate seats, including two from Alberta. By the end of the year there will be 13. Martin must either reform the Senate or buy the grief Chretien bought by refusing to try.

Louise Arbour is leaving the Supreme Court. Will Martin make his minister take place her sit through a parliamentary review? How can gay marriage, the most important case on the Supreme's docket, fail to dominate this review?

Here is the most interesting sentence any journalist has written in the Martin era so far:

"The Globe and Mail's Drew Fagen listened to Martin's top people explain how the sponsorship scandal has made their life difficult. 'Certainly, many senior bureaucrats wondered if their own planning horizons, which focus only on mid-term and not a May election, then a full policy agenda once the fall had been blown off course.'"

The "course" would have forced Canadians to wait almost a year for a real government. No, thank you. We deserve better. You wanted this job, Paul Martin? You have it. So do we. □

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